

LIGHT Has Come

🎵 set starter

The *Light Has Come* Christmas Set Starter contains *everything* you need (underscore, reading, PowerPoint, charts and tracks) for about a 10 minute Christmas season praise set. This versatile service can be led with as little as a capable pianist and worship leader, or with a praise team, praise band and/or a full SATB or SAB choir (plus orchestral instruments with the instrumental edition.) If you don't have any musicians, lead the service with the stereo tracks, or even mix tracks with live performances.

I've arranged *Light Has Come* for the most popular worship team configuration in churches today: worship leader with a 3 part vocal praise team. The music also works great with worship leader and female background vocalist or worship leader with SAB/SATB choir.

Open a December praise set with the upbeat new Christmas praise song *Our God Is Born* then transition into my contemporary arrangement of *O Come All Ye Faithful*. After a short Scripture reading and prayer lead your congregation in the Christmas worship song *Light Has Come (O Little Town.)*

I hope this set starter will help you make one of your December Sundays extra special.

Don Chapman
HymnCharts.com

Ideas for using the *Light Has Come* Set Starter:

Change keys. Finale files are provided which will allow you to change the key if you own Finale software. However, *I do not recommend changing the keys as the underscore is designed to transition you from song to song in the keys I've selected.*

Logo. A Photoshop file and TIFF file is included of the *Light Has Come* logo so you can reproduce it in your bulletin.

PowerPoint files. Standard definition PowerPoint files are provided for the songs. Widescreen blank slides are included if you want to build your own slides in that format.

Underscore. The underscore provides a music background for John 1:1-5. After the Scripture the underscore is interactive - either have a short prayer and repeat the underscore as necessary or go directly into the introduction to the song *Light Has Come (O Little Town)*.

>Using Tracks:

If you plan on using tracks for your service, here's how it works. Instead of building your service and burning a CD with the individual tracks in order (which is fine if you want to do it that way,) use the **Combined tracks**. The Combined track folders are MP3s with songs and the underscore that flow seamlessly one to the other. This way your worship will flow with minimal starting/stopping.

The "Stereo Tracks" and "Vocal Demos" folders contain all the songs and underscores as separate MP3s. Use these if you want more control over your service. Perhaps you want to perform the underscore live with a narrator and a pianist, then sing with tracks, or vice-versa. Because of the interactive nature of the Underscore Prayer I haven't included it as a stand alone track.

Powerpoint and some worship projection software will automatically play MP3s. Or try playing the tracks from an iPod or other MP3 player. Whether you go digital or use a burned CDROM to play the tracks, **please make sure you test your setup with a full run-through!**

LightHasCome_FirstTwoStereoTracks.mp3: Use this if you just want to do the first two songs, or if you want to use tracks, play the underscore live, then use the stereo track for *Light Has Come (O Little Town)*.

Underscore+LightHasComeStereoTrack.mp3: Use this if you want to play the underscore and the song *Light Has Come (O Little Town)* separately.

About the songs:

Our God Is Born: This upbeat Christmas call to worship is short, singable and easy to learn. Use it to open your Christmas praise sets. This song was originally arranged with a B3 organ and I've included a B3 organ part in the SheetMusic folder.

Light Has Come (O Little Town): I guarantee this song will be the hit of your Christmas worship season! Worship leaders Kyle Worsham, Andrew James and I have transformed the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" into a worship song with an added chorus.

Light Has Come blends old and new - your congregation will enjoy singing the familiar tune and the catchy chorus gives the carol a contemporary twist.

Use it first as a special duet - I arranged it for a male worship leader with a female backup vocalist but you can also use it with a worship leader and 3 part praise team, SAB choir or SATB choir.

Light Has Come is easy to learn with simple harmony - the worship leader carries the song and the backup vocals support him with unison and easy parts.

In the LeadSheet folder you'll find extra files named:

LightHasCome_WorshipLeaderBGVs

These files have both the worship leader's melody and the female BGVs.

BGVs:

"BGVs" are background vocal parts, and are an example of how my arranging is evolving as styles change.

With my older arrangements the 3 part vocals, SAB and SATB choirs sing throughout the song with sopranos on the melody, much like the parts you'd find in a hymnal.

According to my polls at WorshipIdeas.com, the majority of churches use the 3 part vocals praise team format. I love choirs and hope they'll make a comeback one day, but for now, 3 part vocals are most popular.

I've also always heard my vocalists complain that praise music is too boring and unchallenging. To solve this problem I'm starting to create BGV parts.

BGVs are similar to what you'll hear on the radio - a lead vocalist (worship leader) drives the song and you'll hear background vocals on the chorus and here and there on verses to accentuate a phrase. They're also a lot of fun to sing! **I've included MP3 BGV demos with louder parts to help your vocalists learn the BGVs music faster.**

Of course, tailor the music to your needs. If the BGVs are too hard for your team, simply have them sing along with the worship leader and sing their own parts.