

# The Meaning of Snowflakes:

## A few Notes:

- Actions are **highlighted**
- Songs are in **bold**.
- Narrator parts are in normal type.
- The motion of the children will be up the center aisle to the altar, and returning to the rear of church via the side aisles.
- Do not hand out the props until right before the children are to use them.
- The order of the props is:
  - Sheet, Easel, Wreath
  - Heart shape taped to a bamboo Skewer
  - Fingerprint shape taped to a bamboo Skewer
  - The names of the children in glitter taped to a bamboo Skewer
  - Netting

## Helper Roles Needed:

- Reading helper
- Two crowd control / handing out props at the rear of church
- 1 CD controller
- One crowd control on the side of church by office
- Possibly one person to help skewer the props

## Props:

- White sheet
- Easel
- Foam wreath
- Bamboo skewers with a heart on them (one for each child)
- Bamboo skewers with a Fingerprint on them (one for each child)
- Bamboo skewers with each child's name on them (one for each child)
- White toile netting
- Children's handbells
- Handbell cards
- Handbell CD

## At the Beginning of worship

Children gather in WH as they arrive Sunday Morning. Children can continue to decorate their snowflake costumes for the Program.

Leaders go through "Joys and Concerns" as usual. Practice any readings for kinds who need help. M

During the Hymn, "Go Tell it on the Mountain", the children come up to the Narthex via the spiral stairs. Children put their costumes on.

The first narrator and Mrs. Muhm come up to the front of church by office stairs.

## Order of line for Coming Up:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

## Narrators:

Welcome  
An Introduction to Snow  
God's Love  
What Makes Us, US  
Jesus Knows us each by Name  
Blanketed by Grace  
A Reminder

## Welcome: Mrs. Muhm

Good Morning! For those of you who don't know me, I am (introduce yourself). I would like to extend a special welcome to all of the family and friends who are joining us this morning for our program. This is not your traditional Christmas Pageant. You won't be seeing angels or shepherds, kings or animals, or even a baby Jesus. Instead, you'll be seeing a lot of snow; which is appropriate for the day. Today's program is based on a Poem by Holley Girth called The Meaning of Snowflakes. Let us Sing together:

**Song: In the Bleak Midwinter UMH 221 v. 1 and 2**

## An Introduction to Snow

The children gather the sheet, the easel, and the wreath form. As the Narrator begins speaking the children bring up a white sheet and place it on the floor. Bring up an easel and place it on the sheet. Bring up the wreath and place it on the easel. Children return to the rear of church via the side aisle by the office.

### Reader 1:

Snow had fallen snow on snow.....There is something magical about snow. It's not quite rain and it's not quite ice, but it's somewhere in between. Its ice in a form that is so delicate and fragile it can be fluffy. One little snowflake doesn't mean much. But when hundreds, and hundreds of thousands, and millions combine, we get a fluffy white blanket of magic.

As the snow falls, it muffles sound; bringing with it a sense of peace. A sense of hope – that something magical is happening; a sense of joy of watching the world around us change from something familiar into something new as the building and trees, cars and streets, playgrounds and toys are covered in the fluffy blanket of ice. Snow brings us a sense of love as we gather together with our families and friends to watch the world change, huddled by windows sipping cups of hot chocolate, wrapped in blankets and reading books.

Many years ago, far longer ago than we can imagine, something else came to change the world. It did not arrive falling from the sky in quiet muffled whooshes, it came loudly into this world, kicking and crying. It did not arrive blanketing the buildings, but was itself wrapped in a blanket. Surrounded by family, wrapped tightly and warmly, a tiny baby entered the world. And just like a snowfall, he changed the world.

Every new snowflake comes to the Earth

As a picture of our Savior's Birth.

Let us sing together about the humble stable.

**Song Sung by Congregation: Away in a Manager UMH 217 v. 1**

## God's Love

As the Narrator reads, each child individually bring ups skewers with HEARTS on them and place into the wreath along the outside edge.

### Reader 2:

We do all kinds of things out of love. We let our brother eat the last piece of Halloween candy because we love him (or maybe because we don't like that kind of candy); we give our friends a hug when they are happy and when they are sad. We share food with each other, and do chores, and sit and talk. We share love in many ways each and every day. We do this with our family, with our friends, and with strangers.

God loves us as we love each other. God loves us so much that those many years ago, God made a big decision – to send Jesus, God's Son, to earth. Now, God is pretty strong and powerful. God could have sent Jesus to us in any way. God could have sent Jesus already grown up, surrounded by lots of servants and expensive toys; tons of food and all of the money he would ever need. But No – God made a different decision. God decided to come into this world just as any other human being – as a tiny helpless little baby – a baby who wasn't born into a palace with shinning gold and tons of toys; but born in the most humble place God could think of – a stable. Surrounded not by servants, but by sheep and donkeys and goats.

When it snows, the world it changed in sometimes tiny ways that we don't notice right away. That baby that was arriving was just another child, as so many before him and after him. But this baby's arrival on earth changed things in tiny ways – later he would change the world in giant ways. Today, the once tiny baby is still changing the world.

Every new snowflake comes to the Earth

As a picture of our Savior's Birth

Because they are sent from up above

And remind us of God's care and love.

Let us Sing together about the lowly infant.

**Song: Infant holy, Infant Lowly UMH 229 v. 1**

## What Makes US, US

As the Narrator reads, each child individually bring ups skewers with FINGERPRINTS on them and place into the wreath along the outside edge.

### Reader 3:

Babies are amazing. They are so tiny when they are first born. New parents and brothers and sisters and grandparents often spend a lot of time looking at them, staring at their tiny fingers and toes, with tiny nails; their tiny faces with tiny noses and cute little ears, feeling the softness of their skin, smelling the fresh new baby smell. They wonder what will his personality be like, what will she be when she grows up. Will she have dad's eyes? Grandpa's hair? Will he have mom's love of music? Or Grandma's knack for cooking? Will he be a lawyer, a teacher, or a minister? Will she be a doctor, a mother, or a businesswoman?

Surrounded that winter night by sweet smelling hay, goats and sheep and donkeys, Mary and Joseph stared at their new baby. They looked at his tiny toes and his cute nose. They wondered what he would be like when he grew up. They wondered what color his eyes would become and how strong he would be. They looked at their new baby and saw how he was made up of hundreds of tiny, complex little details. And they saw how each one of those things made baby Jesus, baby Jesus.

Jesus looks at us today, and sees all of those same details – the things that make us, us.

Every new snowflake comes to the Earth  
As a picture of our Savior's Birth  
Because they are sent from up above  
And remind us of God's care and love  
Each one is so intricate and small  
Because Christ sees the details of us all.  
Let us Sing of Christmas.

**Song: Sing we now of Christmas UMH 237 v. 3**

## Jesus Knows Us Each By Name

As the Narrator reads, each child individually bring ups skewers with THEIR NAMES on them and place into the wreath along the outside edge.

After placing their names, the children sit on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.

### Reader 4:

Have you ever gone out to try and find two snowflakes that are exactly the same? It's hard to do because we can't see the tiny little details with our own eyes. Scientists and researchers have put a lot of thought and time and effort into finding out if this is really true or not. They actually grow snowflakes under microscopes to see what is happening. What they've found as of 2014 is that snowflakes have some basic shapes and some variations – but the shapes and variations combine to form trillions of different combinations. So while it may be possible for two snowflakes to be exactly alike, it isn't likely to happen. The final shape depends on how cold it is, how the wind is blowing, how much water is in the air and lots of other things.

Just as two snowflakes are not the same, we aren't the same either. Each and every one of us – even twins – are different. We may do some things the same way or say some things the same way; but we are each our own and each very different from the others. That very difference is what makes us special. And Jesus knows us all – each and every one of us. He knows us and he knows our names and who we are – and he calls us to follow him.

Every new snowflake comes to the Earth

As a picture of our Savior's Birth

Because they are sent from up above

And remind us of God's care and love

Each one is so intricate and small

Because Christ sees the details of us all,

And just as two are never the same,

He knows and calls us each by name.

Hear now how Christ hold us in his hands.

**Rainbow Ringers: Song: He's Got the Whole World, Track #10 of Tubular Spirituals CD**

## BLANKETED BY GRACE

Children put down bells, go to back of church to get the netting and bring it forward individually draping it over the wreath. After placing the netting, the children sit on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.

### Reader 5:

Snowflakes need more than just water and wind and cold temperatures to form. The final thing that they need to form is a speck of dust or dirt or some other tiny bit of junk floating around in the air. As the temperature drops, the air can only hold so much water. The water starts to look for a place to go and when it finds the dust, the water is pulled toward the dust. Because the air is so cold, the water doesn't stay a liquid for long, instead it freezes into a snowflake around the speck of dirt. The wind blows the tiny speck of dirt and ice until it runs into another drop of water, and continues to grow. Finally, when the ice and speck are too heavy, they fall to the ground as a snowflake.

When lots and lots of these snowflakes combine, they change the world around us. The edges of things are blurred and softened; The ground is now uniform, the same, all covered with a blanket. The world changes because of the snow – and so do we. We walk more carefully, we dress more warmly, and we drive more slowly. We change because the world around us has changed. It doesn't matter if you are strong or weak, prideful or humble, happy or sad...when the snow falls, you need to pay more attention to how you are walking when you are out in the world. Everyone is equal.

When Jesus came to earth, it was like God sending a blanket of snow across our lives. From the specks of our hearts, God's love grew. It crystalized, and spread, grabbing the hearts of others. And then, it combined with other specks of love, and more specks of hope and happiness and even specks of peace. It's a blanket from God. And it changes us. We waited a long time for this to happen – welcome Jesus.

Every new snowflake comes to the Earth

As a picture of our Savior's Birth

Because they are sent from up above

And remind us of God's care and love

Each one is so intricate and small

Because Christ sees the details of us all,

And just as two are never the same,

He knows and calls us each by name.

Snowflakes gently cover the world in snow

Creating a new canvass on which we can grow

Hope and Peace, Love and Joy we seek

Now, offered to all – the strong and the meek

**Rainbow Ringers: Come thou long expected Jesus Easy Hymns CD Track #5**

## A Reminder

The Children stay where they are standing. The bells go on the floor by their feet.

### Reader 6:

Today have make a snowflake – it's a rather large one, but it has a special purpose. To remind us of God's love, of our own uniqueness, of how God knows each and every one of us, and of how we are blanketed by God's grace. Most importantly, the snowflake we made reminds us of what we really celebrate at Christmas – the birth of a tiny baby who changed the world, just like snow changes our world today.

Every new snowflake comes to the Earth

As a picture of our Savior's Birth

Because they are sent from up above

And remind us of God's care and love

Each one is so intricate and small

Because Christ sees the details of us all,

And just as two are never the same,

He knows and calls us each by name.

Snowflakes gently cover the world in snow

Creating a new canvass on which we can grow

Hope and Peace, Love and Joy we seek

Now, offered to all – the strong and the meek

So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind

And in every bit of snow of may you find

A reason to celebrate anew

And a reminder of God's love for you.

Please join us singing as we ring Joy to the World.

**Rainbow Ringers and Congregation: Joy to the World.**