

A Christmas Eve Service

From an evangelistic perspective, the Christmas Eve worship service is the most important one of the year. Many people will visit your church for the first time, and others who have been absent from church will return.

Christmas Eve is your church's opportunity to celebrate and worship the coming of Christ with the community. It should have the highest quality preaching, music and liturgy of which the church is capable. This is not only a family night for the congregation, it is also the time for churches to put their best foot forward in serving God and encouraging first time worshippers to return.

Meaningful and inspiring worship honours God and nurtures your congregation. At Christmastime, people are especially open to the truth and the love found in the of the coming of the Christ child. . It can reach in and touch the lives of people who need to hear a word of nurture and care.

Churches are often overflowing at Christmas. Church consultant Bill Easum states that a new service should be added every time 80% of seating capacity is reached. Consider adding an earlier, shorter child-centered with a short illustrated sermon and special choir music. Start advertising special service details, dates and times in your community at least four weeks in advance.

Here is a sample Christmas Eve service which is sensitive to newcomers and congregational members alike.

Call to Worship

Prayer of Approach

▪ Hymn # 159 ***Oh come, all ye faithful*** (in the Blue Hymnbook).

Advent Reading ***The Christ Candle*** (See insert)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 7: 10 -14, 9: 2 - 7 (in the pew Bible, page xx)

Junior Choir or children singing

Prayer of Confession, Silence, Assurance of Pardon

▪ Hymn #148 ***It came upon the midnight clear*** (Blue Hymnbook)

Scripture Readings: Luke 1: 5 - 17: 26 - 38 (Bible, page xx)

Hymn #166 ***Once in royal David's city*** (Blue Hymnbook)

Scripture Readings: Luke 2:1 - 7 (Bible, page xx)

Choir Anthem or Solo

Meditation

▪ Hymn # 139 (Blue Hymnbook) ***Hark! the herald angels sing***

Prayers of the people. The Lord's Prayer

▪ Hymn # 138 (Blue Hymnbook) ***While shepherds watched***

Presentation of offerings

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

▪ Benediction

▪ Hymn # 154 (Blue Hymnbook) ***Silent Night***

▪ Please stand if you are able