

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (continued)

10. Wreath: from Advent season was used in center of table where small candles were placed. Used lace cloth. Needs to be cleaned and brightened up for next year.
11. Call To Worship: given from balcony. Good.
12. 1977: expect 200 for service.
13. Money: problem getting it from chancel into safe. Put one person in charge. Dom did it and did it well, but he has other things to think about.
14. Tree: used a lighted tree on third floor, plus candles. Lovely atmosphere.
15. Security: OK, but did have one or two lingering near rear for handouts.
16. PC: a bit too heavy....could have been better rested and prepared. Sara - "no joy"...."tired". Less attention to details beforehand would drain him of less energy and pep.
17. Words: seemed to be OK.....good script. Save the call to worship from Isaiah and also lead in on Words of Assurance.

Prepared by PC, Monday, the
28th of December, 1976.

For file.

APPENDIX:

Eric Smith thinks we can do more with colored lighting....perhaps wash the walls with a soft red light, or the pulpit and lectern....worth some experimentation.

CHRISTMAS EVE / SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLES

DECEMBER 24, 1976

EVALUATION / SUGGESTIONS / HIGHLIGHTS

1. Congregation: 175 according to Dom Monge's count. PC would say that 50-60 % were visitors from the neighborhood...many unfamiliar faces.
2. Christmas Collection: \$ 436.00.
\$ 7.99 in loose plate.
128.00 in loose bills
300.00 in checks.
3. Fellowship Hour: Gloria and Nicque provided punch and cookies on the third floor for about 50 to 60. More attended this year than in previous years. Used paper cups, napkins, table cloth. No coffee. Next year: plan on 75.
4. Flowers: Hunters were putting the pointsettias on Friday evening around 6:45. Should have been done by four o'clock. Next year make sure it is!
5. Ushers: Needed at seven pm because first people started arriving around 7:15. Four men: Monge, Molt, Smith, Brown, and Nespole.
6. Lighting: good. Bud Brown handled at back. Need to review it with Bud before first person starts arriving. Effective. PC handled lighting up front.
7. Choir: about 10 voices. Words to anthems should be typed and mimeographed and inserted in bulletin. Couldn't understand words. Good music.
8. Candles: will need new set for next year. Caroline and PC salvaged about 60 - 75 candles from old set....some unused ones saved, too.
9. Carols: good. Not too many....people sang well.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas is a time of giving as well as a time of receiving. In those beautiful words of Christina Rossetti which the choir sang a few moments ago:

"What can I give Him - poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give Him a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part -

But what I can I give him: give Him my heart".

We thank you for the many Christmas gifts already received for the work of this Church. Our needs are many. Your continuing support and generosity mean so very much to us. They help us to keep the lights of hope and faith burning in our city.

The ushers will receive the Christmas offering and this they do in the spirit of Jesus who long said,

"It is more blessed to give than
to receive".

CHRISTMAS EVE GREETINGS (1976)

INTRODUCTION

Few words should be spoken at this service - for this Service of Carols and Candles is primarily a Service in which things are sung that cannot easily be said...a Service in which the warm light of the candles speaks far more eloquently of the deeper meaning of Christmas than words ever can.

The events that took place in Bethlehem long ago that we have come to celebrate this night provide us with the beginning of "The Greatest Story Ever Told". We call to mind those familiar words,

"Of all the armies that ever marched,
all the navies that ever were built,
all the kings who reuled,
all the parliaments that ever sat -
All of these put together - have not
affected the life of man on this planet
as much as that 'One Solitary Life'".

Christmas is the day that we celebrate as His birth. We celebrate the coming of the Light of the World, and the spreading of His Light to all mankind!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Much of the world now grows still; tonight churches are being filled with people for whom Christmas is a matter of the heart and the soul.

To all of you who have come here this night - a very Merry Christmas. It is our hope that as you share in the singing of the carols and in the lighting of the candles...as you worship the Christ Child in the haunting loveliness of this sanctuary....it is our hope that a sense of His Presence and His spirit will fill your life with the Christmas lights of hope. Of joy. Of Peace. Of happiness.

Merry Christmas to each and everyone of you.

FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Eve can be a lonely time for many people in a city like New York. That is why we have a time of informal fellowship planned following this service.

You may be alone here in the city. Join with friends here in the church and share in the warmth and cheer of this night. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall on the third floor. How grateful I am to those who have planned and made possible this time together.

Come to the third floor...either walk up or take the elevator.

(over)

LYNDON / CHRISTMAS EVE

First - Merry Christmas to all the Woodsides!

Second - tonight, I'm going to try the Call To Worship from the balcony.

It's three verses from Isaiah, regarding darkness and the coming of the light.

I'm going to ask Curtis if he could come in and light the candle under the cross as I give the Call To Worship....

Effective!

Also, what about a very soft background while I'm giving it....I'll speak over it...

Something like "Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming"....just the melody softly played.... I have the music for it...

Or, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"...

I'll give a hand wave to you when I'm through with the Call To Worship....

And then, with about a five second pause between the two, then on into "O Come, All Ye Faithful".

How's it sound?

Also, later on in the service (bottom of first page)....some very soft background music as I lead in to the readings regarding the LIGHT... and darkness...

No "Choral Amens" on the two prayers or benediction needed tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Christmas Eve Service

INTRODUCTION

Again we have come to that mysterious miracle that is Christmas! Much of the world grows still.

Beauty lights up homes - without and within. Families are reunited and friends are being restored. Generosity and thoughtfulness reside in human hearts as at no other time of the year. Tonight churches are being filled with people for whom Christmas is a matter of the heart and the soul.

There's nothing quite like the warmth and wonder of Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all of you who have come to worship here this night a very Merry Christmas.

It is our hope that as you share in the singing of the carols and in the lighting of the candles....as you worship the Christ Child in the haunting loveliness of this sanctuary....it is our hope that a sense of His Presence and His spirit will fill your life with the Christmas lights of peace and goodwill.

Merry Christmas to each and everyone of you.

FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to share in moments of fellowship following the service in the downstairs Community Room where refreshments will be served. Our thanks to those of you who have had a hand in making this time of fellowship possible - not only several of our ladies, but also several of our teenagers.

OFFERING

Christmas is a time of giving as well as receiving. We thank you for the many Christmas gifts already received for the Church in connection with our Christmas appeal.

For the gifts to be received tonight, we are deeply grateful. Your continuing support and generosity mean so much to us and help to keep the lights of our faith burning brightly in this city.

The ushers will now receive the Christmas offering.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

1. Merry Christmas - to all the Woodsides!
2. Call To Worship. As was the case last year, I shall do the Call To Worship from the balcony...

I shall take it slowly...with a pause here and there....and will give you a hand signal when done.
3. Ed Hull sings "O Holy Night" as the ushers begin to light the candles....perhaps let them get things under way and then have Ed sing....
4. By the time he finishes "O Holy Night" the Church will be in almost total darkness....except for the candle lights....a beautiful mood is captured....
5. If you want to weave in something after Ed finishes until the "Silent Night"....OK....just feel along and see how it goes....
6. I will give a prayer after "Silent Night" and then we go into the closing "Angels, We Have Heard On High".
7. Benediction - from the back of Church...

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