

CHRISTMAS EVE / SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLES

Sunday Evening, December 24, 1978

EVALUATION / HIGHLIGHTS / SUEGESTIONS FOR 1979

1. Congregational Count: 175 according to ushers and special counters, Perla and Joanna Delson. Carol Nespole suggested having been seated nearer the front...empty pews...up front.
2. Christmas collection: check yellow sheet. U<sup>t</sup> around \$515.00
3. Ushers: Wilkinson, Prickett, Loeffler, Stanford, Breien. Merino helped out with security at back of church from 7 to 8:30.
4. Choir: About 14 voices....both sides of chancel. Extra paid singers through Ann Bynum.
5. Candles: all discarded after service. For 1979, order three sets oc candles for Christmas Eve.
6. Lighting: good. Eric Smith handled it at back of church. PC up front.
7. Flowers: red carnations on altar instead of pointsettias. Looked beautiful - quoting Carol Nespole.
8. Trees: two trees in commanity room. Both needed more lights. Lights from 1977 discovered in box with colored floods in Abdo's room. Remember this for next year!
9. Fellowship Hours: Anna Delson and daughters plus two or three others.
10. Expect: 200 to 225 next year, if weather is good. It rained on Sunday night and this probably knocked 50 people out of church who otherwise would have been here.
11. Carols: good, not too heavy. Congregation sang well. Silent Night - last verse unaccompanied. More descant on two carols would have been good.
12. Security: good. no problems. David Merino and Bill Loeffler added strength.

13. Bulletin Board. Christmas Eve Service - 8 P. M. Large letters.  
Put out on Thursday, the 21st.
14. Service: people liked it. Sara suggested changing some of the script. Catherine said it was quite "predictable"....PC should be thinking about changing some aspects of it.
15. "Armies that ever marched" - drop this for coming year...also the "few words should be spoken". Instead of a "merry" Christmas, what about a "Joyous" one....(Sara)
16. PC / Script - rested...."in" to it with enthusiasm this year.  
Rested. use of plastic folders helps.

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December 24, 1977

EVALUATION / HIGHLIGHTS / SUGGESTIONS FOR 1978

1. Congregational Count: 190 according to Dom Monge. PC felt that 60 % were unfamiliar faces. Visitors from neighborhood.
2. Christmas collection: check yellow sheet.
3. Ushers: Monge, Breien, Molt, Pew, Russell, Williams. Arrived around 7:15 pm Good ushering.
4. Choir: about 10 voices. Eight were paid professionals. Good music. Music for anthems was typed and inserted in bulletin. Worked well.
5. Candles: all discarded after service. For 1978 order two sets of candles...will need 200 next year.
6. Carols: good, not too heavy...congregational sang well. Silent Night, last verse unaccompanied.
7. Lighting: good. Bud Brown felt that lights could have come done faster than they did. David Clarke worked sanctuary lights. PC up front.
8. Flowers: Pointsettias arrived on Friday - two days ahead. Two on altar, plus wreaths. Looked good.
9. Fellowship Hour: Monges, Molts, Delsons. About 75 people stayed for punch and Christmas cookies. Used cups and paper napkins from Blacker and Kooby. Paper table cloth.
10. Wreath: from Advent Season. Used in center of two card tables inside sanctuary doors. Used Christmas tablecloth on tables. Colorful. Had candles burning as people came in.
11. Lay Reader: Clu Gulager. Read from King James Version of Bible. Good.
12. Expect 200 to 225 in December of 1978. Sunday night.
13. Trees: two trees in CR. Lights on them. Colored lights in CR. Eric Smith's idea.
14. Call To Worship and Benediction: back of church. Benediction and use of names...two fewer next year.

15. PC and Script. Rested. Use script in plastic folders again.  
OK to repeat.
16. Security: no problems, but two collection plates did disappear.
17. Bulletin Board: Christmas Eve Service - 8 P. M. - large letters.  
Changed to Christmas Day Service - 11 A. M.

CHRISTMAS EVE GREETINGS (1978)

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 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 ruled,  
all the parlements that ever sat -

All of these put together - have not  
affected the life of man on this planet  
as powerfully 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 peace, of joy, of hope, of love.

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. This is why we have a time of informal fellowship planned following the service.

You may be alone here in the city. Join with friends here and share in the warmth and cheer of this night. Refreshments will be served in the downstairs Community Room. All are invited.

( over )

CHRISTMAS REMEMBERING

Christmas is a time of remembering. Some of us in this parish remember a young man who was quite active here twenty years ago...a man who gave so much of himself to this Church...to all of us - Giles Robinson.

Giles is now a banker in Kentucky. He's here in the city for a week. A former Trustee as well as the former Lay Leader of our Church...I invited him to be our Lay Reader this evening.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas is a time of giving as well as a time of receiving, a time of love and warmth. One thinks of those beautiful lines of Christina Rossetti:

"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 very much to us. Thank you.

The ushers will receive the Christmas offering; this they do in the spirit of Jesus who said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.

CALL TO WORSHIP:    CHRISTMAS EVE

Isaiah: 9:  
2, 6 and 7

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a  
great light;

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on  
them has the light shined."

"For unto us a child is born! So us a Son is  
given!

And the government will be upon His shoulder,

And His name will be called -

'Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!'

"Of the increase of His government and of peace,  
There will be no end!

Upon the throne of David, and over His  
kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold  
it,

With justice and with righteousness,  
From this time forth and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this"

(Isaiah 9, verses 2, 6 and 7)

LEAD IN TO THE SILENT MEDITATION

As the world once again draws quiet to  
hear the song of the angels, and to kneel in  
adoration before the manger of the Christ  
Child,

Let us - in the warmth and hush of these  
moments - enter into a deep silence, preparing  
our hearts that we may receive the blessings  
of His coming. In quietness, let each pray  
as the heart may prompt.

CHEER US - through the song of the angels that  
hope and health, faith and courage  
may rest on all who have gathered  
here this night.

GRANT US - the peace and the love of the  
Christ Child, as we pray together  
the prayer He taught us, saying:

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed  
be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy  
will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And  
forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, forever. Amen"