

LIGHTING / CHRISTMAS EVE

(December 24th, 1997 and every year!)

LIGHTING for the Christmas Eve Service is most IMPORTANT in setting the proper mood of worship. I'd suggest the following light settings and CUES for change.....

FROM 7 pm to 8 pm.....

We'll open the church around 7 and would suggest a soft low light....in the sanctuary...something like 70....test this...not too dark, not too bright.

AROUND 8 pm.....

When the choir and minister come up from downstairs for the Call To Worship, then the lights get turned up SLOWLY....from 70 ish to 80 to 85 ish....enough light for people to see the hymns.....

Keep them up around 80 to 85 (or higher, if you think more light is needed)....if it's TOO BRIGHT, bring them down....or UP, if necessary.

AROUND 8:40 pm.....

LISTEN OUT FOR "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"... This is a CUE hymn....After we sing it, Phil goes to the lectern to read scripture passages dealing with light....begin to bring the lights down a bit as he reads from Genesis, Isaiah, John and Matthew... and offers a prayer following.....

Keep the lights UP high enough for people to read the lines for "O Little Town of Bethlehem".... they remain seated for that carol.

AROUND 8:50 pm.....

Getting to the LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES. Someone should bring down the house lights very slowly.... to where just a soft light is seen at the bottom of the lights.....PHIL will handle the lights in the chancel and try to synchronize with the dimming of the house lights handled in the narthex by Larry or Walter.....he will leave a light on the CROSS.

BY CANDLE-LIGHT.....

"O Holy Night" by the choir. "Silent Night" by the Congregation. A Christmas Prayer by PHIL. Then the closing carol, "Angels We Have Heard On High"..... You may want to bring the lights up for "Angels We Have Heard on High"....just a bit...not all the way!

AROUND 9:10 pm.....

Recessional by choir. PHIL gives the Benediction from the rear of the sanctuary. Bring the lights up (but not all the way) for people to see as they depart.....

ADVENT SUNDAY / ADVENT BANNER AND WREATH

ADVENT SUNDAY

Today is ADVENT SUNDAY which marks the beginning of a new church year. Advent Sunday ushers in the Christmas Season. I always like to think that from here on it's OK for us to sing Christmas carols here in church. It's OK to start sending out Christmas cards....and to do our Christmas shopping.

Commercially speaking...Christmas time now starts before Thanksgiving. A couple of weeks ago two ladies were looking in a window of one of our fancy NYC stores and saw a beautiful display of the manger scene at Bethlehem.

"Look at that church" one of them said. "Why even the Church is trying to horn in on Christmas...."

Boys and girls...the reason for this season has everything to do with Jesus and His birth. I think you know that!

SPECIAL

Advent Sunday is special for us and that's why the children are down here with us....there going to help us light the candles on the Advent wreath from now up through the Sunday before Christmas.

We have the first of our beautiful Advent banners hanging over here on the wall.....our HOPE BANNER...reminding us that Jesus always brings hope and light into a life...into a situation.....without that hope and without that light which He brings, we'd be in trouble! HOPE give us confidence in the future.

WREATH

Now we're going to light the first candle on our wreath...and Max Gale is going to do that for us. And then one of the young ladies in my confirmation class - ALANNA VAL HACKETT - is going to lead us all in prayer.

"We pause in these moments to thank You, O God, for the light that came into our world long ago in the birth of the baby, Jesus....Your Son....and we think, too, of the HOPE that His spirit always brings into a life....."

We thank YOU for the red banner on the wall of our church that reminds us that HE continues to be the HOPE of our world. And for the touches of red and green that now begin to remind us that Christmas is coming, we thank YOU. We thank YOU for our homes and for our loved ones that give us HOPE and LIGHT and confidence in the future of our world. In the name of Jesus, we pray." Amen.

CAROL: 235 "Rock-A-Bye, My Dear Little Boy"