

Service Suggestions for December

We hope you find the following suggestions – in part or in whole – to be helpful for use in your worship services this Advent season. May Christ, Who is our Hope, be glorified in your midst.

As a note, we have found that combining the familiar Christmas carols with hymns and songs of praise during the Christmas season adds fresh perspective to the meaning of all the songs – and often helps the congregation focus on the truth of the Christmas message more keenly!

If you are using the Advent Candle, consider having a member of your church family share a brief testimony relating to the theme of the candle after the candle is lighted.

Merry Christmas!

Tony & Rhonda Pangle
Worship Service Resources

#1 Congregational Singing/Lighting of the Advent Candle/Testimony

- **“O Come All Ye Faithful” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #13)**
- **Responsive Scripture Reading from John Chapter 1**
- **Brief Testimony from a Member of the Church Family about the Grace of God**
- **“I’m Forever Grateful” (WSR Sing to Him CD, Track #7) or “Amazing Grace” (WSR Jesus My Savior CD, Track #3)**
- **At the end of previous song, sing prayerfully the chorus of “O Come All Ye Faithful” a cappella before a time of congregational prayer.**

#2 Congregational Singing/Lighting of the Advent Candle/Testimony

- **“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #7)**
- **Scripture Reading - Colossians 1:15-17**
- **“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #1)**
- **Scripture Reading - Colossians 1:19-20 AND Hebrews 12:2**
- **A cappella – 1st verse of “My Jesus, I Love Thee” (by congregation or soloist) OR “Oh, How I Love Jesus” a cappella or with WSR Prayer & Invitation CD, Track #13**
- **Congregational prayer**

#3 Congregational Singing/Lighting of the Advent Candle/Testimony

- **“Joy to the World” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #12)**
- **Scripture Reading – Luke 2:8-14 (Consider using a well-reading child or teenager)**
- **“How Great Our Joy” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #8) or “The First Noel” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #21)**
- **Brief Testimony about the Joy of the Lord from a Member of the Church Family**
- **Congregational Prayer**
- **Optional Song: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (WSR Sing to Him CD, Track #8)**

#4 Congregational Singing/Lighting of the Advent Candle/Testimony

- **“Angels We Have Heard on High” (WSR Christmas CD, Track #2)**
- **Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:6-7**
- **“The Birthday of a King” (WSR Christmas CD, Track, #20) OR “Majesty” (WSR Majestic Hymns CD, Track #9)**
- **Brief Testimony about the Love of the Lord from a Member of the Church Family**
- **Congregational prayer**

RESPONSIVE READING FROM JOHN CHAPTER 1

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Leader

In the beginning was the Word

Congregation

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader

He was with God in the beginning.

Congregation

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Leader

In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Congregation

The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Leader

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

Congregation

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Leader

Yet to all who received him,

Congregation

To those who believed in his name,

Leader

He gave the right to become children of God.

All

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(from John Chapter 1)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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Consider using a variety of people to help with the Scripture Readings i.e., families, seniors, well-reading children and teenagers.

Colossians 1:15-17

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:19-20

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great **joy** that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLOISTS OR ENSEMBLES:

“O Holy Night”

“The Birthday of a King”

“What Child is This?”

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN:

“Oh, Come, Little Children”

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CLOSE OF THE SERVICE:

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”