

Summary of and Helpful Hints for...

More than a Holiday - A Christmas Worship Service

Summary: This service uses the common symbols and traditions of Christmas: a wreath on the front door, a nativity set on a table, candles, a Christmas tree covered with lights, presents, Christmas carols, and families gathered around a table to enjoy a Christmas dinner. The culture tells us that Christmas is a mere holiday. Are we just following the trends of culture? Or are we purposeful in how we celebrate? This service challenges people to ask themselves how these traditions and symbols can point us to keeping Christ as the center of our holiday celebrations and our worship.

Helpful Hints:

We loved getting as many people involved as possible in this service.

Several weeks before the service we asked church members to share a family Christmas picture. We put together a video loop of these pictures and showed it before the service began.

We put up on the screen pictures of the narrators and/or their family members to highlight each narration part. You don't have to do this, but it added a visual plus personal touch. I wouldn't use more than one or two pictures during each section, because then people are looking at pictures rather than listening to the message.

We also set a scene on stage that included all the symbols that are presented (nativity set, candle, table set for dinner, wreath, Christmas tree with lights, and presents)

We purchased a small glass heart ornament to give to each family when they left the service. These are explained in one of the last narrations. Just omit this, of course, if you choose not to do this give-a-way.

I listed what songs we used in the service. You may purchase them or make sure the songs are covered by your church licensing agreement. But also feel free to substitute any others for them that you think would work best for your church and talent.

We used a skit called "Shine On" <https://www.skitsandstuff.com/Skits/?NO=114&TYPE=1&CATPRINO=5&CATSECNO=18>

If you choose to use this, please purchase it from the above website. (\$10). We made several changes to the script and you can use those revisions, only after you purchase the original. Thank you for your integrity in this.

We used 3 videos during the service as well. You can find them at these websites.

Video : "24 Christmas Tree Hits in 43 Seconds"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdRYVZtiKg8>

Video: "The Gift of Christmas" <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/61104/the-gift-of-christmas>

Video: "Amazing Grace Christmas House"

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Christmas+lights%2C+Amazing+grace+house&oq=Christmas+lights%2C+Amazing+grace+house&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.8575j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>