

A Description of the ABC Services/Categories & Themes

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A Personal Journey to the Nativity by St. John's, Wauwatosa, is a scripted drama for 2 characters that tells the biblical account of Jesus' birth through the eyes of Anna, a shepherd's younger sister. The dialogue with her mother is a wonderful telling of the Gospel accounts and many prophecies.

Advent Prayer Service by Marilyn Miller is a celebration of Advent in lessons and songs. The narrative explains the traditional candles of the Advent wreath (Prophecy, Bethlehem, Angel, Shepherd, Christ) and includes readings, music and prayers.

Anticipating His Presence by St. John's, Wauwatosa is based on His "presence" (the gift of Jesus) rather than presents. The 10 gifts that are unwrapped in this scripted drama include: Jesus, Love, His Light & Word, Holy Spirit & Faith, Perfection, Forgiveness, Righteousness & Truth, Peace, Prayer, and Eternal Life.

Good News of Great Joy for All People by Naomi Schmidt focuses on the Good News that has come with the birth of the Savior, the Great Joy we receive with the Gospel message, and a reminder that these are for All People. It includes a bit of encouragement for evangelism and optional, brief skits, along with music, readings and prayers.

Have a Mary Christmas by Naomi Schmidt suggests several "Marys" that have a Christmas message. Mary of Bethany reminds us that only one thing is needed, Mary, the mother of Jesus reminds us to treasure Jesus and think about him, and Mary Magdalene reminds us that Jesus freed us from sin and enables us to serve him. Costumes optional.

Is There a Star in Your Eyes? by St. Andrews, Middleton, follows the theme of stars and includes Bethlehem's Star, the Star is Born, Star Search, Spread the Starlight, The Star in our Hearts, Watch the Star and The Star Still Shines. It includes an opening skit, readings and music.

Keeping Christ in Christmas by St. John's, Wauwatosa, is a dramatic setting of Christmas symbols and their meaning. It includes narratives on the Advent Wreath, Carols, Christmas Trees, the Nativity, Lights & Candles, Star, Angels, Christmas plants, Candy Canes, Bells, Cards, Food, Gifts & Wise Men, and colors.

Let Your Lights Appear by St. John's, Wauwatosa includes the traditional candles of the Advent Wreath and then includes new, alternative ways to think about the candles with a focus on letting the light of our faith shine at home, work, in our community and at church.

Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus by Su Hanson follows the traditional candles of the Advent Wreath (Prophecy, Bethlehem, Angel, Shepherd and Christ candle) and closes with a Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism.

Take Me to the Manger by Tracy Hankwitz teaches us lessons from Christ's manger: A Glory to Gaze Upon, A Gift to Count Upon, A Comfort to Lean Upon, and A Hope to Draw Upon. It includes narratives, music selections, and poetry.

The Light to Brighten Your Christmas by Johanna Manke is a beautifully written program with a reminder of God's creation of light, the darkness of sin and the promised light of the Savior, readings about the Gospel illuminating a sin-darkened world, and a reminder that our light of faith shines in our life. It includes a confession of sins, narratives and responsive readings, suggested music and prayers. It also includes the lighting of a memory candle for those loved ones who have gone before us to dwell in heaven.

The Time Has Come by St. Andrews, Middleton recounts the "times" that have come: A Time for creation, a promise, confession, prophecy, a Savior, Good News, and Jesus' Return. It includes music selections, "In His Time" and "Soon and Very Soon" along with traditional Christmas music.

Wait for the Lord by Linda Gumm begins in the Garden of Eden and highlights the prophecies throughout the Old Testament and after the familiar Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth, and ends with an encouragement to keep watch for His return.

Categories & Themes (on page 3)

Categories & Themes

Advent Wreath

Advent Prayer Service
Let Your Lights Appear
Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus

Contemporary Themes

Anticipating His Presence
Good News of Great Joy for All People
Have a Mary Christmas
Is There a Star in Your Eye?
Take Me to the Manger
The Time Has Come

Drama/Skits included (some optional)

A Personal Journey to the Nativity (primarily dramatic skit for 2)
Anticipating His Presence (setting of Christmas tree with presents)
Good News of Great Joy for All People (skits optional)
Have a Mary Christmas (costumes are optional for the Mary narratives)
Is There a Star in Your Eyes? (opening skit)
Keeping Christ in Christmas

Traditional Themes (including Prophecy and/or Advent material)

Advent Prayer Service
Let Your Lights Appear
The Light to Brighten Your Christmas
Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus
Wait on the Lord