



CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

WHAT THE LIGHT MEANS TO ME

ITEMS NEEDED:

1. The pulpit is removed to facilitate the children's candlelight hour.
2. Request that no one be seated under the balcony on the sides. Rope off these sections.
3. Candles for everyone. Distribute the candles at the door as people enter.
4. Candle display on the communion table from which all of the other candles will be lit.
5. Two boxes at the rear of the auditorium to collect the candles at the end of the service.
6. Candles for the two reader's stands and piano to provide enough lighting for the readers/pianist.
7. Three small flashlights: pulpit for readings, sound technician, and singers.
8. Microphone at the speakers stands for the readers.
9. Microphone/stand on floor level for singers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be sure everyone has a candle.)

OPENING PRAYER.

SONG: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (RECEIVE THE OFFERING)

(CHILDREN ASSEMBLE ON CENTER STAGE AT THIS TIME)

TURN OFF ALL AUDITORIUM LIGHTING EXCEPT THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. THIS WILL BE DONE BY _____

PASTOR HOSTS THE CHILDREN CANDLELIGHT HOUR. The Christmas candle is in the center.

CHILDREN RETURN TO THEIR SEATS AS _____ LEADS EVERYONE IN "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS."

AFTER FINISHING THE SONG, ALL REMAINING LIGHTING TO THE AUDITORIUM IS TURNED OFF IN ORDER TO ACCENTUATE THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES.

BEGIN ADULT PROGRAM: WHAT THE LIGHT MEANS TO ME

SONG: O HOLY NIGHT BY _____ (NO LIGHTS)

- During this song the ladies will come from the back of the church, use their already lit candles to light the candles on the speaker's stands, piano, and any other designated areas.
- At the same time _____ will sing without instruments from center stage. This will allow the candle ladies to move freely.

READER #1 _____ (BRINGS OWN CANDLE TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, LIGHTS IT, THEN MOVES TO THE SPEAKER'S STAND AND READS.) - The Bible gives us the testimony of how the Samaritan woman got saved. She told the town, "Come, see a man who told

me everything that I ever did. Is not this the Christ?” Likewise, I have my own testimony of what Jesus has done for me.

READS PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

READER #2 _____ (BRINGS OWN CANDLE TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, LIGHTS IT, THEN MOVES TO THE SPEAKER’S STAND AND READS.) - The Bible gives us the testimony of how the Apostle Paul got saved. He saw a bright light on the road to Damascus, and cried out, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” I may not be as great as the Apostle Paul but, I, too, have my own testimony of what Jesus has done for me.

READS PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

SPECIAL MUSIC: _____

READER #3 _____ (BRINGS OWN CANDLE TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, LIGHTS IT, THEN MOVES TO THE SPEAKER’S STAND AND READS.) - Have you ever read the blind man’s testimony in John chapter 9? This man met Jesus and was healed on the outside as well as on the inside. He then said, “One thing I know...I once was blind, but now I see.” The song Amazing Grace contains the line, “I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” Let me share with you my own experience.

READS PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

READER #4 _____ - **CONFIRMED** (BRINGS OWN CANDLE TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, LIGHTS IT, THEN MOVES TO THE SPEAKER’S STAND AND READS.) - The story of the Philippian jailer’s salvation is a wonderful story to me. He said, “Sir, what

must I do to be saved?” and Paul said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.” The jailer believed, was saved, and baptized that same hour. Isn’t it great to be saved? Here is how it happened in my life.

READS PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

SPECIAL MUSIC: _____

READER #5 _____ (BRINGS OWN CANDLE TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, LIGHTS IT, THEN MOVES TO THE SPEAKER’S STAND AND READS.) - The thief on the cross was saved from a devil’s hell with only minutes to spare! As he was dying, he looked to Jesus in faith believing and said, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus said, “Today you shall join me in paradise.” I can look forward to that same promise...to sharing paradise with Jesus for all eternity with so many of my loved ones! Here is my story.

READS PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

READER #6 _____ (BRINGS OWN CANDLE TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, LIGHTS IT, THEN MOVES TO THE SPEAKER’S STAND AND READS.) –

PASTOR: DO YOU HAVE A SIMILAR STORY? DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO COME TO THE LIGHT, EMBRACE THE LIGHT, JESUS CHRIST, AND COMMIT YOUR LIFE, YOUR FUTURE, YOUR ALL TO HIM? PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TURNED AWAY FROM YOUR SIN AND TURNED YOUR LIFE OVER TO JESUS.

BUT TONIGHT IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO DO SO. GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOUR HEART RIGHT NOW; YOU ARE NOW READY TO TURN YOUR LIFE OVER TO HIM AND TRUST JESUS AS YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN.

HAVE I JUST DESCRIBED YOU? IF THE ANSWER IS YES THEN LET ME LEAD YOU IN PRAYING TO JESUS. JUST SAY THESE WORDS WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART AND REPEAT AFTER ME.

(PASTOR LEADS THE AUDIENCE IN THE SINNER'S PRAYER.)

PASTOR: IF YOU PRAYED THAT PRAYER WITH ME THEN I WANT TO MEET YOU AT THE END OF THIS SERVICE. I HAVE A BOOK I WANT TO GIVE YOU THAT WILL HELP YOU START YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE. PLEASE SEE ME AT THE END OF THIS SERVICE.

PASTOR: WE WILL NOW LIGHT OUR OWN CANDLE. OUR LADIES WILL LIGHT THE CANDLE ON THE END OF EACH ROW. PLEASE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU UNTIL ALL OF THE CANDLES IN YOUR ROW ARE LIT THEN BROTHER _____ WILL LEAD US IN SOME OF OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS.

(NO PIANO MUSIC FOR THE REST OF THE SERVICE.)

(INSTRUCTIONS: THE LADIES WILL LIGHT THEIR OWN CANDLES FROM THE LARGE CANDLE IN THE CENTER OF THE DISPLAY. THEY WILL PROCEED TO LIGHT THE CANDLES ON THE END OF EACH ROW. THE LADIES WILL THEN BE SEATED NEAR THE BACK SO THEY CAN COLLECT THE CANDLES AS EVERYONE LEAVES.)

_____ (NOTE: THESE SONGS WILL NOT APPEAR ON THE SCREEN. THE SCREEN PRODUCES TOO MUCH LIGHT.): WE ARE NOW GOING TO SING SOME OF OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS WITHOUT THE PIANO. AT SOME POINT I WILL RAISE MY CANDLE INTO THE AIR IN TRIBUTE TO MY LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. PLEASE RAISE YOUR CANDLE AT THE SAME TIME.

- *Silent Night* - vs 1, 4
- *Away in a Manger* - vs 1
- *Joy to the World* - vs 1, 4
- *O Come All Ye Faithful* – vs 1, 3 (***Raise your candle high into the air as you begin verse three***).

_____ LEADS THE AUDIENCE IN EXTINGUISHING THEIR CANDLES.

PASTOR: IN JUST A MOMENT WE WILL BE DISMISSED. PLEASE TAKE YOUR CANDLE TO THE REAR OF THE CHURCH AND PUT IT IN THE BOX. MAY EACH OF YOU HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DISMISSAL PRAYER. (LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON DURING THE PRAYER.)