

Christmas Eve Homily/Skit

Written by: The Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell '00

Nothing is to be done in a scripted format. Actors should feel free to ad lib as! The goal is to make it look quite natural.



Person 1

Pastor: (Enter the chancel from a side door.) Wow, Christmas is almost here. I have been getting ready for weeks and we still are not done. (Name of Person 1! Name of Person 1!) Did you remember to get something for Rachel and Harold...I nearly forgot them...oh, did you get something for Anna and Shawn next door, and oh yes, Anthony.

Person 1: (Enter the chancel from a side door.) Yes, don't worry, I got it all done.

Pastor: Did you get all of the Christmas cards out? You know what happens when someone sees that you sent a card postmarked December 26 and THIS year, it won't get postmarked until December 27.

Person 1: (Pastor's Name) relax, they got mailed weeks ago and besides, it's too late now.

Pastor: What about dinner, did you get those sweet potatoes and do you have enough flour for the Yorkshire Pudding and what about desert. What do you need me to get?

Person 1: (Pastor's Name), relax, it's all taken care of besides, it's Christmas eve, where are you going to get something now! Relax! (Person 1 slowly head back off of the Chancel).

Person 2

Pastor: (Person 2's Name), did you get the final changes in the bulletin! Did you notice how the original bulletin had us singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" How did that possibly happen? So did you get it fixed in time?

Person 2: (Enter from a side door or a pew down front.) (Pastor's Name), relax, we got it done. Five people proofread the bulletin, as well as you and me; it is just fine. Besides, it is too late now!

Pastor: Great! Oh, you are coming to the house for dinner, we'll be eating about 2. Are you bringing desert or the appetizers? Oh yes, appetizers, crud, we forgot about appetizers. Can you

whip up a batch of your famous fish and shrimp balls, you know the ones you just love to make and eat?

Person 2: Are you out of your mind?

Pastor: (Person 1's Name), did you get appetizers for tomorrow?

Person 1: (From the distance somewhere) Relax (Pastor's Name), I took care of it!

Pastor: Oh, (Person 2), the Advent candle. Remember the year when we couldn't find any candles for it? Are the candles going to be long enough? We don't want them running out in the middle of the service!

Person 2: (Pastor's Name), relax, it is all just fine. I took care of the candles...it is just fine.

Person 3

Person 3: (Enter from a side door) (Pastor's Name), let me get this clear, I am going to do the scripture at 9:00 and you are going to do the sermon and the call for the offering, is that right.

Pastor: Well, yes, I guess. But while we are talking about that, did you get the scripture into the computer? Last year when we projected the scripture it had Noah and the Ark instead of the Christmas story!

Person 3: Relax it is all taken care of!

Pastor: Did you open up the...

Person 3: Pastor, relax, it is taken care of!

Pastor: But what about the back lights in the parking...

Person 3: (Pastor's Name), relax, it is all taken care of!

(Person 3 quietly goes out a side door or takes a seat in the sanctuary).

Pastor...How can we possibly relax...there is just SO much we have to do and SO little time!

Narrator:

Is this what Christmas is all about? A hectic pace of preparing, shopping, cooking, partying, wrapping presents, rushing from home to home. Is this what Christmas is all about?

Mary and Joseph were on their way to their ancestral town of Bethlehem where she was about to give birth. As they came in to the town there was no place for them to stay so they settled for a corner of a manger, it was there Mary went into labor and gave birth to her first born child...Jesus.

That night there were shepherds out in the fields just outside of the little village, keeping watch over the flocks in the quiet of the night when an angel appeared. The angel told them not to worry, but that he was bringing them good news...for today in the city of David, Bethlehem, has been born a savior, Jesus Christ. You will find the baby in a manger, wrapped in a baby's cloth.

Many other angels appeared and they began singing. Clearly, this was a very special night!

The shepherds left for the town and sure enough they found little Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph. The shepherds told others about what had happened but most importantly, they gave thanks to God...worshipped God!

Christmas is NOT FIRST and FOREMOST about:

Parties with food, music, and drinking.

Decorations or Christmas music on the radio or in the stores

Not even about giving of presents.

Christmas is not OUR birthday BUT RATHER JESUS' BIRTHDAY!

First: God loved you and me SO much that a part of himself came down to earth in the form of Jesus!

God is not a distant being who lives off in some far away mansion, God sent Jesus to live with the people: Immanuel!

If we know Jesus, we know Christmas.

And what a Christmas present...Jesus brings peace, happier marriages, stronger families, better employers and employees, and a knowledge that God is right there with us!!!

BUT...if there is NO Jesus, there is NO Christmas!!!

Second: They came and worshipped Jesus.

Again remember...Christmas is not OUR birthday BUT RATHER JESUS' BIRTHDAY!

They, like us, came to celebrate God coming to earth!

Often we go to a church and talk about what we GOT out of it!

Great music – we sang your favorite hymn

Seeing friends or family

Hearing a powerful sermon that made us feel all good inside

The shepherds didn't come for...great music...for family and friends...for a sermon

They came to worship God...worship the baby Jesus.

They knew it was Jesus' birthday

Lastly: They went and told others! "When they had seen Jesus, they spread the word"!

Find a good restaurant...we tell people.

Find a good job...we tell people.

Find a good car...we tell people.

Why are we so shy to tell others about this Jesus?

The shepherds...simple shepherds (NOT preachers or televangelists)...couldn't be silent!

Is tomorrow going to be like any other day, except with a few presents under a tree and a big meal? Or is it something special...a birthday we need to celebrate about?

It is Christmas Eve...

The stockings are hung by the chimney with care!

The shopping is done!

Too late on the Christmas cards, they will just have to be late!

Put all of that aside and remember it is a birthday!

Jesus came to be with you and me. Know Jesus, know Christmas. But no Jesus, there is NO Christmas!

Worship Jesus tomorrow (and beyond). Say a prayer at dinner. Talk about what God has done in your life this past year. Talk about what God is going to do in the coming year. But remember to worship Jesus!

Lastly...don't be afraid to tell others. It is a difficult world out there. The best Christmas present you can give anyone is the love of Christ. Starting tonight, being Christ to your world.

Merry Christmas!