

Preparing a Prayer Service (Sample)

Initial Preparation

Name of Occasion: Advent Liturgy

Date, Time, Location: December 2
9:30 a.m.
Main Gymnasium

Focus of the Celebration: "Light, Hope, and Peace: An Advent Celebration"

Preparation of the Students:

Several of the short readings from the prayer service were distributed in religious studies classes earlier in the week. The students read the passages and wrote reflections on them or prayers inspired by them. These were collected; some of the prayers will be used in the prayer service. Some of the reflections will be printed in the worship aid.

Ministers

Presider: Simone B.

Hospitality Ministers: Campus Ministry Student Liturgy Team

Ministers of the Word: Marie P., Mike W.

Music Ministers: school chorus

Sacristan: Levan A.

Other Ministers: dance ensemble, readers for the reflections, candle bearers

General Description of Environment and Use of Art:

Auditorium is darkened. Seats face each other (antiphonal seating) with ambo at one end, the chorus at the other, and the Advent wreath and stand for the lamps in the center. Purple banners hang from the ceiling at each of the four corners. Purple cloths drape the ambo.

General Description of the Use of Movement:

Dancers lead the procession and lead the assembly in singing and signing (with simple hand movements) the refrain of the responsorial psalm.



The Order of Service

Opening Rites

Call to Prayer: Simone B.

Song: Mantra of *Prepare the Way of the Lord*, as procession enters, led by dancers

Opening Prayer: composed by campus ministry team, read by Simone B.

Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1–10
Proclaimed by: Marie P.

Psalm: My Soul in Stillness Waits (Psalm 95)
Cantor: Phillip H.

(Gestures at the refrain, dancers move to the verses.)

Second Reading: Luke 1:67–79
Proclaimed by: Mike W.

Reflection on the Readings

Shared by: Isabelle B.

Ritual Actions

Description of Ritual / Symbolic Actions: Litany of peace and lighting of lamps

There are four short readings (quotations from various people). After a short reading, a prayer of hope (written earlier that week by the students in class) is said while a lamp is lit and placed in the center. After each prayer, the candles of the people seated in each section are lit.

Music or Song: instrumental

Prayers

Composed by: students in religious studies classes

Read by: Mike H. and Phoebe B.

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace



Closing

Blessing

Sending Forth / Dismissal

Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

