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Interactive christmas eve service ideas

Recently, a group of ministry leaders from across the country with varying degrees of local restrictions met through Zoom to discuss ideas of serving effectively this Christmas season, while still cautiously considering COVID-19 and the health and well-being of those they serve. You can watch zoom conference replay below or by visiting the BBFI YouTube page by clicking here. Here is a sample of some of the creative ideas being shared ... The Ministry of Children pre-announced a children's Christmas show/choir for sharing on social networks. Renting a local cinema for a children's film to ensure parental exit. Ideas for the service on Christmas Eve Livestreaming candlelight Christmas Eve, have candles available in the church a week before Christmas. For those who do not have internet, they can still attend the Christmas service. Promoting viewing parties for Christmas service. During mass there is something for everyone, all age groups. The goal is to make the service as interactive as possible (not just something to watch). Christmas Eve service is a live Zoom call where everyone can sing Christmas carols together. Sermon series ideas Christmas on movies sermon series with cookies, hot chocolate, hot cider available during each service. Serving church families Delivery of Christmas gift bags for those who do not currently attend live services. Gift bags include snacks, Christmas service candles, Christmas piety from Daily Bread, music CDs with church music, and elements to serve Communion. Buying pies and deliveries to elderly people who can't go to church. Providing online daily commitment live on Facebook during the month of December. Give everyone in the church Christmas in a box. Each box contains a QR code with a link to the Christmas Eve service, candles for the Christmas Eve service, a copy of Christmas Carol and a children's Christmas book. Ideas of community service Joining the community by the church in a community parade. Help serve your local orphanage by providing Christmas gifts. Every Saturday during December, organizing family events on church property with train rides, games, photo locations and various suppliers. There is also a prayer tent for spiritual needs. This is a free event, but every weekend there is a requirement to provide a donation to a local charity (one with canned goods, one week's toys, a week of other food). The needy are given new bedding such as sheets, toasts, towels, etc. Other Christmas ideas drive-through birth, including cocoa and cookies for those who drive-through. Rent a local cinema for a Christmas movie (Elf). Focus on gatherings of small groups, not any major Christmas events. Create a new Facebook page called Christmas at Home. A daily post on this new site suggested ideas that have to do with your family (from in the house on the local Christmas lights to look at). Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes. Create a Christmas village in the church parking lot, including a drive-through Christmas light show. Turn on a large photo booth area where you can even be in the car for a photo. I'm a big Fan of Christmas Eve. Attendance is mostly in all churches during the Christmas season, because even the most uncertain have a small voice nagging them to go. We decided at Brookwood Church to put all our musical eggs in the Christmas Eve basket because it's the service of the year (along with Easter Sunday), even outside Christmas cantatas and December Sundays, when people are most likely to darken the church door. Make sure to create a special service on Christmas Eve. It's hard enough finding musicians on Christmas Eve in a big church like Brookwood, but it was even harder to find players in a 300-strong church where I was music director a few years ago (that's why I created Christmas Eve and I adore you service guides - you can perform a nice service with just a capable pianist and a leader of worship or just use songs.) In a smaller church, we'd be acoustic (me on piano, acoustic guitar and bass) which was a nice vibe for the evening anyway. We rented a children's grand piano, placed it in the center of the room and had a service in the circle to change things (otherwise I used a synth keyboard from a small stage). Our technician hung a few extra, cheap lights to create a pleasant mood, and I downloaded the most beautiful backgrounds of the adoration videos I could find. At Brookwood, I discovered several elements that we do year after year that simply work: Instrumental praise to the band We always have an elaborate instrumental that allows our praise band to bend their musical muscles. In years past we have done the famous Carol of the Bells Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and last year we premiered my Christmas concert. With all my instrumental pieces, I'm trying to incorporate some shimmering features. Along with The Concerto, it's a Harry Potterish celeste opening with the boys choir. For my Easter Resurrection Overture, I used the hinges. Last year, I made a crazy Opera-type Organ Opening Phantom. Child children involved in our Christmas Eve service mean parents and family attend. The kids sing along with the congregation and do a special with the choir. (Watch them talk Go Tell It on the Mountain from our Christmas Eve Mass last year.) Choir Believe it or not, I've received e-mails of complaints that I've been talking too much about choirs lately. But I can't help it – even though we have crooked guitars crying that would get most music directors fired, we still have a chorus of praise, and the congregation loves it. Our great praise choir knows what a great thing Christmas Eve is and is ready sacrifice of three services. Their extra presence definitely adds life to the stage. Carol singing I love the mix of performance wow pieces as well as congregational engagement. Everyone loves to sing songs, but too many can carry them. This year, we're making my arrangements about Little Town Bethlehem followed by Go Tell It on the Mountain. Then we'll pour into the Mighty to Sava section that says, Light up your light and let the whole word see... which perfectly recap theme Go Tell It. Lighting candles After our pastor's message, we write Silent Night, and everyone in the room lights a candle. By the time all the candles light up, the last verse is the song a capella – wow! Famous songs and new songs Mixing old and new – that says it all for the leader of 21st century worship, doesn't it? In addition to famous songs, we will also make new Christmas songs, just in our case, these are songs that we wrote ourselves. Snow All I've mentioned so far is something a 300-member church can pull off, except maybe this one. A few years ago I was at Disney during the holidays and they loved how it snowed on the high street (in Florida!). It's a soapy thing that dissolves when it hits the ground. I was talking to worship leader Steve Smith about it, and he said, Why not try it? We rented a few snow blowers and let it snow during the grand final song (the loud climax of the song covers the noise of the blowers). What one, special thing can you do this year to get your own service on Christmas Eve? I found the original ABC Christmases on a website called The Young Clergy Women Project. I liked the idea of the service and decided to use it this year for one of our services on Christmas Eve. Every year we have a special Kid-Friendly service on Christmas Eve. I like this, because it looks like it's going to be really interactive. Any person who comes to the ministry (or every child) will choose to be wise, shepherd or angel. Erin Klassen, author of the original blog post, suggested making small head gear for children. I'm not that cunning. I'm going to print little paper-sized posters that people will take with these pictures on them: they're pictures I took from Microsoft Clip Art. At the beginning of the service, I'm going to tell people to listen to the ABC Christmas story and pay attention. Every time I say the word shepherds, shepherds should hold their poster and say let's see! Every time I say the word Wise, the wise men hold up their poster and say See, the star! When I say the word Angel, the angels say, Allelujah! And it's for ANGELA. ANGEL Gabriel began the story by telling Mary: Luke 1:28-33 Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty. Beautiful inside and out! God was You... Mary, there's nothing to be afraid of. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call him the Name Jesus. B is for Bethlehem, where our story takes place. People traveled from far away to reach Bethlehem, which was not a large village. C is for the Census Bureau, which means official counting of all people. The reason so many people came to Bethlehem. D is for a Donkey. The donkey carried the family on their long journey. Mary and Joseph had to travel 100 miles along the Jordan River to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It's a pretty long journey. E is for the exhausted. That's how everyone felt when they arrived. It would take about 36 hours of walking to go that far. It's three days in a row to do nothing but walk. Song: About Little Town Bethlehem F is for the family. Mary and Joseph and their new baby Jesus created a new family, one that would bless the whole world. Luke 2:6-8 While they were there, the time had come for Mary to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn child. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. G is for good news to be shared with the whole country. That's what the ANGELS said: Luke 2:10-14 In the neighborhood were camped shepherds. They set night classes over their sheep. Suddenly, God's ANGEL stood among them and God's glory burned around them. The shepherds were terrified. The angel said, He's not afraid. I am here to announce a great and joyful event that is intended for everyone, around the world: the Savior was just born in David's city, the Savior who is the Emass and Master. This is what you should look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket lying in a manule. The angel was immediately joined by a great angelic choir who sang God's praises: Praise God in heavenly heights. Peace to all men and women on earth. Song: Hark The Herald Angels Sing H is for Hope. Now we light the Advent candle of Hope. Hope is knowing that good news is coming, even when things look bleak. Jesus is the source of our hope. I'm all for Imagine. If we close our eyes and imagine the scene, we can see the beauty and wonder of ANGELS proclaiming good news to all men and women. We can see shepherds, first terrified, but then overcome with joy as they hear the good news. If we try harder, we can imagine a world where God's peace reigns, where there is no war or famine. And if we can imagine that, we can do it with God's help. J is for Joy. Now we light the Advent candle of Joy. Joy is the kind of happiness that comes from God. It can't be smug and it's always shared. Jesus' birth gives us joy. The song: Joy to the World K is for King. Even though Jesus would have been king, he wasn't king, that we're used to. Most kings are born in palaces,

surrounded by servants. He was born in a barn, surrounded by filthy, smelly SHEPHERDS. Most kings rule with strength and fear. Jesus rules with mercy and love. L is for Lost. When Jesus was growing up, he told many stories, and three of them were about lost things that were found. He loved to find lost things, and when you are with Jesus, you will never be lost. He's a good SHEPHERD, doing his best to find his lost sheep. L is also for love. Now we light the Advent candle of love, Jesus summed up his ministry by saying Love God... and Love your neighbor as yourself. M is for Manger. Manes are usually used to hold animal feed, but this time she was holding the baby because he didn't have a cot. Song: Away in the Manger N is for Noel. Noel is another word for Christmas. It means a new birth, and that's what happened in our story. It happens every year at Christmas time. This happens every time we choose to follow Jesus—He is born in us anew. It's about the Offer. THE WISE gave gifts to the baby, and we can offer our gifts every day. We give our time, our talents, and our treasures to God, and pray that as a Church we may be good stewards of all that we are entrusted with. Now we share our gifts. Offertory – Go Tell it On the Mountain Doxology P is for peace. Now we light the Advent candle of peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and is a source of peace that transcends all understanding. Q is for Quiet. We begin a time of prayer in silence, allowing God to be spoken to and joyful when silence is broken by small voices. R is for Discovered. Discovered means showing us something that used to be hidden. God revealed to us what love looks like by giving us Jesus. Jesus is love and reveals to us the way to love one another. S is for Star. One particular star led WISE ONES to come see the baby. They were mysterious and lived far away, but they brought gifts to Jesus because they knew he would grow up to be king. Matthew 2:9-11 Moved by the king, they are on their way. Then the star reappeared, the same star they saw in the eastern sky. It led them until it hovered over the child's place. They barely contained themselves: They were in the right place! They've arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. They overpowered him, knelt him down and worshipped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, incense, mydo. T is for the Table. When Jesus was growing up, he invited everyone to his desk. He gave his friends bread and wine, and told them to always remember him. When we gather at the Lord's table today, we call it Communion because we gather. So, at this table, we also remember the following letter: U is for unity. is a time when all men can come together and be one. Just as many grains merge and form a single bread. We, who are many people, gather to be one body of Christ. Communion Liturgy After the liturgy of Communion is read, these instructions are given: When you come to Communion, the shepherd will give you a piece of bread. You can take it with you to the fence, where you will get a cup of grape juice. If you're here as a family, then every family will get one piece of bread. Then you are invited to kneel on the fence together. Take the bread, break off the piece, and give it to someone else in your family, and say, This is the body of Christ. If you have a little one, tell them: Let's do it as a reminder of how much Jesus loves us. Your cups will be brought to the fence. You are welcome to pray together as much as you like. V is for the Vulnerable. Vulnerable means, able to get hurt. Every baby is very vulnerable, just like we are when we love each other. God became vulnerable when Jesus was born, and we are called to be vulnerable when we love our brothers and sisters. W is for Wonder. Like the WISE, we stand in awe and wonder at the newborn king. X is for Christ. X is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in the word Christ. X is one of the ancient symbols of Christianity. People have been using the letter X for centuries to stand up for Christ. And now we light the candle of Christ, symbolizing the coming of light into the world. Jesus was born. Y is for you. You ANGELS. YOU WISE. YOU SHEPHERDS. You sons and daughters. You mothers and fathers. You friends and strangers. You are all here to celebrate and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Z is for Zeal. Let your zeal for Christ burn. As these lights have passed out, know that the Light of God burns much, much brighter. Although these lights will die out, god's light is steadfast and lasts forever. Glow sticks are distributed by janishers. Sometimes these sticks are difficult to break through, so they need to be set on fire before service and kept in a box. Song: Silent Night

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