

Las Posadas – A Service of Shelter for the Holy Family

November 30, 2005

The Second Service of Advent

Welcome to the Las Posadas service, a traditional Mexican Advent celebration meaning “the inns.” The celebration is a remembrance of the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph through the streets of Bethlehem. The traditional celebration includes a procession led by children to different houses in the neighborhood pleading to be let in. At first they are turned down, but eventually the doors are opened and the festivities moved inside, with the breaking of the pinata, singing Christmas Carols and of course, food.

Greeting

Prelude

Las Posadas Song

Call to Worship

We come together, waiting for the Promised One.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a place for your only Child.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Purify our thoughts, our words our deeds, O God, that we may serve gladly and with compassion.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Grant us awareness, O God, that we might become conscious of the needs of our neighbors.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Strengthen our commitment, O God, that we give freely and live fully as signs of Christ’s presence.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Let us travel together in this journey of preparation

Hymn

Toda la Tierra

UMH 210

Verse 1 – Spanish (Solo)

Verse 2 – English (Congregation)

Verse 3 – Spanish (Congregation)

Verse 4 – English (Congregation)

Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Journey to the First Door

Congregational section responds to Joseph saying:

“You look dirty and you smell. Will you please keep moving? For your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent.”

Congregational Response

Las Posadas Song, Verse 1

Journey to the Second Door

Congregational section responds to Mary saying:

“For your reasons we care not. Every room is taken. Can’t you see the place is full? You are bad for business. We have faith in God, but in faith we do not know you. We will not open our doors to strangers.”

Congregational Response

Las Posadas Song, Verse 1

Journey to the Third Door

Congregational section responds to Joseph and Mary saying:

“Oh my goodness do come in. You can use the manger. For the rooms that we do have are for a rich traveler.”

Congregational Response

Las Posadas Song, Verse 2, 3

Anthem

What Child is This

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.

May the word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Closing Hymn

Cuando el Pobre

UMH 434

Verse 1 – Spanish (Solo)

Verse 1 – English (Congregation)

Verse 2 – Spanish (Congregation)

Verse 2 – English (Congregation)

Closing Prayer

O God, You led the holy family through the darkness to a place of rest.

Abide with us in this season,

lead us on paths of righteousness,

restore us when we grow tired and weary,

so that we might find peace and rest in your arms.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Benediction

Please join us in Brooks Common where we will continue our Las Posadas celebration with the breaking of a piñata.

Worship Notes

Liturgists: *Kate Floyd, Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore*

Reader: *Michelle Calderon*

Joseph: *Andrew Highland*

Mary: *Christelle Evans*

Angel: *Christina Jones*

Voice: *Andy Woodworth*

Flutist: *Beverly Casstevens*

Singers: *Drew Willson, Vance West, Tim Kromer, Wes Holloway*

Journey Script *Adaptation from Justo L. Gonzalez, Decatur, Georgia*

Service Organizers: *Sara Pugh, Jonathan Smith, Amanda Osenga*

Opening litany written by *Amanda Osenga*

Prayer written by *Jonathan Smith*

Adapted from a service by *Justo Gonzalez*.

“las Posadas” song by *Barbara Garcia*; available from *UM Board of Discipleship*