

Full Script for Participants

Las Posadas – A Service of Shelter for the Holy Family
November 30, 2005

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

Mary Elizabeth Moore

Prelude

Beverly on flute - Las Posadas Song

Call to Worship – Kate Floyd

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 (first read in Spanish, then in English)

Michelle Calderon

*Begin playing traveling music
Angel enters with dance, lighting the candle from the candle at the alter
Enter Mary and Joseph after the candle has been lit*

Journey to the First Door

Angel leads Mary and Joseph to the first door (lower balcony)

(Joseph:)

In the name of God we beg: will you let us enter? We are tired and we are cold. May we please have shelter?

(The Innkeeper:)

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

(Voice)

Who will give lodging to those wearied by traveling? Who will open their doors to the one from Nazareth? Why can't we see the image of God in the filthy and the diseased? This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

Congregational Response

Las Posadas Song, verse 1

While Congregation sings verse 1 of Las Posadas Holy Family travels to door two (left side of stadium seating-if facing the alter)

Journey to the Second Door

(Mary:)

It is not by our own choice that today we travel; But the Emperor has said that all must be counted. With faith in God, our journey began. By faith, God has brought us to your door. In faith, I beg you, open that my husband and I may find peace from the journey.

(The Innkeeper:)

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.

(Voice:)

What good is it, my friends, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is hungry and lacks daily bread, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith, by itself, if it has not works, is as if dead."

Congregational Response

Las Posadas Song, verse 2

While Congregation sings verse 2 of Las Posadas, Holy Family travels to door three (down to the floor)

Journey to the Third Door

(Joseph and Mary:)

Will the child be born tonight out on a street corner? Can't you find a place for him! Do you have no pity?

(The Innkeeper:)

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

(Voice:)

Holy Jesus you are still with the poor and homeless; If we wish to do your will, we will bid them welcome. Holy Jesus do forgive, in this Advent season, that the way in which we live, so beclouds our vision. Amen.

Congregational Response

Las Posadas Song, verse 3

Anthem

What Child is This

UMH 219

Sung by three tenors

Instrumentalist – Beverly on Flute, Drew with Guitar

Mary and Joseph sit on Organ pew during song, behind the crèche

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Mary and Joseph

Closing Hymn

Cuando la Pobre

UMH 434

Verse 1 – Spanish (Solo)

Verse 1 – English (Congregation)

Verse 2 – Spanish (Congregation)

Verse 2 – English (Congregation)

Closing Prayer

Kate Floyd

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

Mary Elizabeth Moore

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

Liturgist *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 Wilson, Vance West, Tim Kromer, Wes Holloway*

Journey Script *Adapted from a service by Justo L. Gonzalez, Decatur, Georgia*

Las Posadas song by Barbara Garcia (available from United Methodist Board of Discipleship)