

A What Can't Wait Christmas Program

Welcome

Reader _____

Say: Welcome parents, grandparents, family and friends to a What Can't Wait Christmas Program. Today we are excited to spell out the meaning of Christmas for you. So please join me and stand for our opening carol.

Opening Song #283

O Come All Ye Faithful

(Congregation sings – Children Process in and sit on risers/ stairs))

Reader _____

Say: You may be seated.

Cherub and Chorister Choirs

Do You Hear the Shepherd?" by Kimberly Ingram

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader _____

Say: Advent is a time to wait with anticipation for the birth of Jesus. But what can't wait? There are so many things in this world that can't wait.

Babies have to be born. A sneeze that itches the nose. Forgiveness.

These things can't wait. Neither can the things that the advent candles represent. Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

Advent Lighting Song #240

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Say: Let us pray together

Congregation says: Dear God, we know we need to be patient, and wait.

But there are things in this world that just can't wait. This world needs your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love now. Amen.

Introduction

Reader _____

Say: What can't wait? The story about Baby Jesus can't wait! It's a story of hope, peace, joy, and love. We can't wait to share this story with you, and we hope you can't wait to share the story of Jesus with others. So let's get started! We know that letters spell out words, and words together create a sentence, and sentences can shape a story. Today it is our pleasure to spell

out for you a what can't wait Christmas composition – one where the letters reveal a hidden meaning to a story that just can't wait. So welcome to C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S.

Reader _____

Say: C is for Child

(hold up C on the back row)

Once there was a little child born in Bethlehem. He is the son of God, given for us all. It is the story of Mary and her little Christ-child. This is the story that changed our lives.

Reader _____

Say: H is for hope, holy, heaven and humble.

(hold up C and H on the back row)

The baby of Bethlehem was sent from heaven to be born in a humble stable to bring hope to the world. This holy season reminds us to celebrate the coming of Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

Reader _____

Say: R is for riding on a donkey

(hold up C, H, R on the back row)

Mary and Joseph had to make a trip to Bethlehem because Emperor Augustus ordered that all people be counted. Mary, who was with child, rode a donkey in order to make the trip. It was a long way for her to go.

Song: *Little Grey Donkey*

Reader _____

Say: I is for Innkeeper

(hold up signs C,H,R, I on the back row)

Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem to be counted with all of the other people. It was cold when they arrived. Joseph knocked on many doors looking for a room but everyone said no. Finally an innkeeper answered his door. Having no room in the inn, the innkeeper let them stay in his stable which was warm with fresh hay.

Song: *Away in a manger #227*

Reader _____

Say: S is for stable

(hold up signs C,H,R,I,S on the back row)

Mary told Joseph that it was time for the baby to be born. That night, Mary gave birth to Jesus. In the stable there was a manger, a warm bed to place baby Jesus. The animals –cows (Moo), sheep (Baa), and donkey (Heehaw) - kept them warm as they waited for morning.

Soloist on (Angels We Have Heard on High

Reader _____

Say: T is for tell

(hold up signs C,H,R,I,S,T on the back row)

Outside Bethlehem, shepherds watched their sheep on the hills.

Suddenly, an angel appeared to tell the shepherds about the good news of Jesus' birth. The angels told the Shepherds to go to Bethlehem and there you will find the child lying in a bed of hay. Suddenly, many angels filled the heavens. They sang together:

Song: *Angels We Have Heard on High* #289

Reader _____

Say: M is for manger, Mary, and Messiah.

(hold up signs C,H,R,I,S,T,M on the back row)

The angel was right. The shepherds hurried and found the baby. Jesus was asleep on the bed of hay, a manger. They told Mary and Joseph what the angel had said, 'Go to Bethlehem and you will find the baby lying in the manger. This child is the promised Messiah'. Mary smiled. She knew that Jesus was Immanuel – God with us. Later the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for all they had seen and heard. Jesus was born!

Song: *Go Tell It On the Mountain* #290

Reader _____

Say: A is ALL three wise men

(hold signs C,H,R,I,S,T,M,A, on the back row)

On a cool, clear evening three wise men looked into the night sky and saw a bright star. (Big star is held up)The wise men had been waiting for someone important to come into the world. They were waiting for a king and knew the star was a sign from God.

Song: *We Three Kings* #25

Soloist on *Silent Night*

Reader _____

Say: S is for star – a starry night and one big star

(hold signs C,H,R,I,S,T,M,A,S on the back row)

The three wise men followed the star to find the baby. They finally found Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. They were so quiet not to wake baby Jesus. So they knelt beside his bed, giving him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It was a quiet, peaceful, silent night.

Song: *Silent night* #281

Reader _____

Say: So what does this spell? C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S? Together the letters spell out Christmas, a special story in one word. A story that tells of a child who came from heaven and was born in a humble stable. A story of a baby bringing hope, peace, joy and love into the world. A story that comes together in the form of letters, words and sentences to bring God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, to us. It's a story that just can't wait!
Amen.

Offering

Reader _____

Let us pray together:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial.
Deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever.
Amen

Closing Carol – Joy to the world #267