

“Waiting” a Living Advent Calendar Pageant

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This is a "living Advent Calendar" where members of the congregation asked scripted questions, and then the children took turns popping their heads out of the calendar with the answers.

Narrator: It’s hard sometimes to wait until Christmas.

We mark the time with paper chains and Advent calendars.

We count the shopping days.

We bake, we cook, we decorate.

We move the Nativity figures in the sanctuary to represent their journey to the manger.

(pause to move figures or have children do it)

We light the Advent Candles

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Practice in pairs)

- * --- This candle reminds us to HOPE as we wait. (* **lights candle**)
- * --- This candle reminds us to work for PEACE as we wait. (* **lights candle**)
- * --- This candle reminds us to rejoice even as we wait.* **lights candle**)

(Lucia)The final candle reminds us to love, but

All kids --we have to wait to light THAT candle until next Sunday.
And then we will be REALLY close to Christmas.

[Kids go hide behind board]

“Kindle a Flame . . .”

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but are we preparing for just one day, – or the time after Christmas?
Some churches have Living Nativity enactments
But today we present

All kids pop through windows shouting..

the Living Advent Calendar!

ALL SIX WINDOWS OPEN for the reveal.

Cong. members read the numbered questions. Kiddos behind the window burst window open, shout the line, then quickly shut the window again.

1. Why do we have to WAIT so long?

*Consider the WEIGHT that Mary was carrying the first Christmas!

2. How far did Mary and Joseph have to go?

* ---It is about 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. You could drive it in under 2 hours!

3. But how long did it take Mary and Joseph?

* ---On a donkey it would take about 5 or 6 days. IF Mary didn't have to stop a lot.

4. I can't WAIT for Santa to come...what does the name Santa mean, anyway?

* --- Santa means "Saint" as in "Saint Nicholas"

* --- More importantly, what does the name 'Jesus' mean?

* --- It means God is Salvation!

5. I can't wait to hear Santa's HO! HO! HO!

* --- The angel said, Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace to men of good will

6. We are new in town. How will Santa find our house?

* --- Imagine how hard it will be for Joseph to find a safe place for Mary to give birth!

7. I hope I have happy dreams Christmas Eve, like visions of sugarplums!

*---Joseph had a very special dream...The angel told him to not be afraid to keep Mary as his wife,

* ---And don't forget the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, too!

*---The shepherds also had a visit from an angel

8. Why do we wait to sing the Christmas Carols in Church?

*---. Waiting to sing the Christmas Carols until we are closer to Christmas is part of the waiting season of Advent.

All kids/all doors ---. how about lets sing one right now!

Pilgrim Hymnal 129: "It Came upon a Midnight Clear"

9. I can't wait to see what gifts I get for Christmas!

* ---. God will give us the best gift of all. He will give us Jesus!

10. Enough of this – I don't CARE!! - I want to UNWRAP my gifts!

* ---Have you considered WRAPPING yourself around someone who is without family and needs friends and CARE?

Narrator: So this year, as we approach Christmas – either rapidly or slowly – let's remember the TRUE Christmas Journey:

* ---It's not the 90 miles, or how fast you travel – it's who is invited along on the journey – and where you are really going.

* ---It's not the size or weight of the presents it's the size of the heart that gave them.

* ---It's not unwrapping gifts – It's wrapping your love around friends, family, or maybe people you will never ever meet.

Narrator: We have 9 days until Christmas Eve.

* --- How WILL you spend the time?

* --- How will YOU spend the time?

* --- How will you SPEND the time?

* --- How will you spend the TIME?

There was a Little Baby (Raffi) - *Mary Jo new lyrics*

1. The Baby is a coming Oh My Lord!
2. They'll lay him in a manger
3. "His mother will be Mary"
4. Baby Jesus is a comin'.