

### Unwrapping Christmas

*A Christmas sock or bag with small wrapped boxes in which there are cards on which are written the components of the service such as "sing a song" The children( or groups of children) are then invited to take turns pulling out a card and whatever the order the church does it.*

1-3

2007 St Pauls

Intro

Welcome to Christmas unwrapped where we are going to pull back the silver screen curtain as we re discover the meaning of Christmas.

Carol O Come all ye faithful \*

5

Lets Pray.

As we gather for worship today, Father, there is excitement in the air, a song on our lips and joy in our hearts. Help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas. May the Word which was made flesh be heard in our worship

May Christ be born again in this congregation and in the life of each person here. May the love of Christmas fill the church and the peace of Christmas fill our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*From Prayers before Worship*

Round New Zealand people have woken this morning and with expectation they have looked to see what presents they might have received. They come wrapped in alsorts of shapes and sizes.

Have you ever read one of those mystery books where you make a choice at the bottom of the page and depending on what your choice is you turn to one page or another.

You know the one just as the child reached forward to pick up a parcel A) a bird flew past or B ) He looked sideways and saw his brother coming.

If you chose A) turn to page ....

If B) then turn to .page ....

Well our service is going to be a bit like that this morning. We thought it would be fun today to have children come forward and unwrap a parcel and within the parcel we will find what we are going to do next in the service.

## In Boxes

|                 |  |    |    |
|-----------------|--|----|----|
| <i>Carols</i>   | <i>Carol our Christmas an upside down Christmas</i>    |    |    |
|                 | 31   |    |    |
|                 | <i>Marys boy child</i> *                               | 12 |    |
|                 | <i>Oh Holy Night</i> 550 *                             |    | 37 |
|                 | <i>Come they told me par rumpa papa</i> *              | 23 |    |
|                 | <i>While Sheperds watched their flocks by night.</i> * |    | 45 |
|                 | <i>Hark the hearld angel sings</i> *                   | 52 |    |
|                 | <i>Silent night</i> *                                  |    | 41 |
| <i>Readings</i> | <i>John 1:1-14</i>                                     |    |    |
|                 | <i>Ps 98</i>   |    |    |
|                 | <i>Matt 1:18-25</i>                                    |    |    |

*Sermon Almost magical* 62

*Puppets**Prayers**Confession*

As Christmas comes round year by year, Lord,  
we are tempted to say, 'We have heard  
all this so many times before;  
we know the story off by heart'.

*Forgive us, Lord, and remind us of the difference  
between knowing about it, knowing it,  
and letting it speak to us again and again.*

Help us to see ourselves and our own attitudes  
lived out by people in the Christmas story:  
The inn-keeper: who couldn't find room  
for you in his inn.

*Lord, help us to cease from cluttering our lives  
with countless things — things that don't really  
matter; things that crowd you and others out.*

Herod: hostile, jealous, and hating, because  
he was afraid of who he was and of what  
your coming might do to him.

*Lord, help us see the destructiveness of our  
jealousies, and help us replace our fears  
with hope and our hates with forgiveness.*

The shepherds: who were scorned by others  
as unskilled laborers, but heard the music  
of your coming even while they worked.

*Lord, deliver us from the pride that thinks  
some tasks too menial, and from prejudices  
that blind us to your glory.*

The wise men from the east: who journeyed far  
to find you.

*Teach us again, eternal God, that those who really  
seek will find, and never let us rest content  
until we have been found by you.  
Taken from "Be our freedom Lord" pg 272*

**After the unwrapping of boxes**

|                           |                              |    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| Carol                     | Joy to the world *           | 70 |
| Communion as per the NZPB |                              | 77 |
| Carols                    | Feliz Navidad *              | 83 |
|                           | Supa Duppa Christmas to CD * | 90 |