

Presen(ce)

A Christmas Spiritual Program/ Dinner where ladies are invited to unwrap the gift of Christ's Presence.

Set-up: Decorate room with large wrapped boxes with beautiful bows. Have lights dimmed using candle light to create a warm atmosphere. Have soft Christmas music playing in background. If available invite a violinist to play throughout the evening in the background and during time of reflection.

Carol: "O Little town of Bethlehem"

Grace:

Appetizer:

The Christmas Story: Read story from Luke 2.:1-20 As you read ask the ladies to imagine and reflect on Mary wrapping baby Jesus in a blanket, and how that represents us wrapping a present. And imagine her gently kissing her baby as she places him in the manger. The kiss is like a bow on a wrapped present.

Vocal: Invite someone to sing, "Jesus, Jesus, O what a beautiful name"

Serve Main Course

Carols: "Silent Night"

"Away in a manger"

Christmas Prayer: Read "The Manger of My heart". Allow for a time of reflection, quietness and stillness with soft music following the reading. This can be used as the devotion. You may wish to add further thoughts.

The Manger of My Heart by Renee Swop

www.Proverbs31.org

This Christmas, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.

Fill me with Your presence from the very start.

As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,

Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.

You came as a baby born in a manger.

Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,

Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
when He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.

Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.

And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.

Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.

Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.

Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.

Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.

Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.

In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.

Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.

Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.

Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

Serve Dessert

Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Closing Prayer/Christmas Blessing

