

I Adore You CHRISTMAS SERVICE GUIDE

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The *I Adore You Christmas Service Guide* contains *everything* you need (underscores, readings, tracks and Christmas carols) for about 30 minutes of Christmas worship. This versatile service can be led with as little as a capable pianist and worship leader, or with a praise team, praise band and/or a full SATB choir (plus orchestral instruments with the instrumental edition.) If you don't have any musicians, lead the service with the stereo tracks, or even mix tracks with live performances.

Get as elaborate as you want. Do all the readings with one person or select different elders/deacons and/or members of the congregation for each reading (make sure the people you select have expression and are committed to practicing with the included demos.) Or, just play the MP3 vocal demos of the readings. Have a pianist or a full band lead the carols.

The service guide is built around the Christmas praise song I wrote with UK worship leader Tim Light: *I Adore You*. You can perform this final song as a special or teach it to your congregation during the Christmas season.

The service guide can be used as a **Christmas Eve Service** or as a special **Sunday morning service** during December (kind of like a contemporary Christmas cantata!) Or split it in half and do one part on one Sunday and the other part on the next Sunday.

I hope you and your congregation enjoy the *I Adore You Christmas Service Guide* and please let me know if you have any comments and suggestions.

Don Chapman
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Ideas for using the *I Adore You Service Guide*:

>What you'll need to provide for your service:

1. Up to 6 narrators. One person can do all the narration or pick a different person for each narration. Burn a CD or email your narrators the MP3 vocal demo and MP3 track so they can practice their timing. *The key to the service guide is the uninterrupted music flow!*

2. Sermon. There's a slot for the pastor's sermon.

3. Alternate Scripture. The KJV version is provided here for the Scripture readings, but you may have a favorite translation you'd rather use. Try "The Message" version for a contemporary reading.

>Tips for using the service guide:

1. Scarce musicians. If you use the service guide for your Christmas Eve service, you know how scarce musicians can be! Use tracks: burn a CD of the underscores and vocal demos and play it in lieu of using musicians.

2. Keyboard player. The entire service can be conducted with a single, capable pianist. Have a keyboard player accompany the narration by playing the underscores under the narration (the underscores have chords so a guitarist can play along, too.) You will want to have a short rehearsal with the pianist and narrators to make sure their timing is perfect.

3. Change keys. Finale MUS files are provided which will allow you to change the key if you own Finale or Sibelius 5 software. However, *I do not recommend changing the keys as the underscores are designed to transition you from song to song in the keys I've selected.*

4. Logo. A Photoshop file and TIFF file is included of the logo so you can reproduce it in your bulletin.

5. PowerPoint files. Standard definition PowerPoint files are provided for the songs. Widescreen blank slides are included if you want to build your own slides in that format.

6. Solos/Special Music. If you want a longer Christmas Eve service and have the musicians to pull it off, add a solo or choir special to the mix. You might include a favorite solo from one of your Christmas Sundays or a choir special from a cantata performed by a smaller ensemble if your full choir isn't available.

7. Mix and match solos, 3 part vocals and SATB choir. One advantage of the service guide is that it's flexible. If you just have a pianist and worship leader, use the lead sheets. Then in a year or two you may have a small vocal praise team and can use the 3 part vocals (and maybe even eventually you'll have a choir.) Don't feel you have to use just 3 part vocals or just choir. Have a worship leader or soloist lead a song, have a 3 part vocal group lead a few songs and then end with a larger SATB choir after the sermon for *Hark the Herald* and *I Adore You*.

8. CCLI. The Christmas carols in the *I Adore You Christmas Service Guide* are registered with CCLI - please report usage as you would with any praise and worship song.

9. Video: WorshipFilms.com has created videos for all 6 songs in their Complete Christmas Vol. 1: <http://www.worshipfilms.com>

>Using Tracks:

If you plan on using tracks for your service, here's how it works. Instead of building your service and burning a CD with the individual tracks in order (which is fine if you want to do it that way,) use the "Combined" tracks. The "Combined" track folders are 2 MP3s with songs and underscores that flow seamlessly one to the other:

01_IAdoreYou_CombinedStereoTracks.mp3 (20:58) contains:

- Underscore 1
- O Come All Ye Faithful*
- Underscore 2
- Angels We Have Heard On High*
- Underscore 3
- O Come O Come Emmanuel*
- Underscore 4
- The First Noel*

Break for sermon

02_IAdoreYou_CombinedStereoTracks.mp3 (9:27) contains:

- Prayer & Underscore 5
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
- Underscore 6
- I Adore You*

Then I suggest you either play a live or demo MP3 version of *I Adore You* as people exit (postlude.)

Use the combined MP3s so your worship will flow with minimal starting/stopping.

The "Stereo Tracks" and "Vocal Demos" folders contain all the songs and underscores as separate MP3s. Use these if you want more control over your service. Perhaps you want to perform the underscores live with narrators and a pianist, then sing with tracks, or vice-versa.

Powerpoint and some worship projection software will automatically play MP3s. Or try playing the tracks from an iPod or other MP3 player. Whether you go digital or use a burned CDROM to play the tracks, please make sure you test your setup with a full run-through!

>How to use this service guide:

Each part of this service guide is on one page. Print out all the pages for all your narrators so they can follow along and mark their parts.

The final page is a one page, at-a-glance overview so those involved can see the entire program.

If you're using the MP3 underscores, make sure the narrators have a chance to practice with them. Feel free to burn a CD or email the MP3s to them so they can make sure their narrations fit the music. The keyboard underscores are composed with repeats making them more flexible.

Dead space kills a worship service! Both the keyboard underscores and MP3 underscores are designed to help you flow directly into the next song. If you're using the MP3s, wait until you hear the final chord - the chord will ring out for a few seconds giving you time to start playing the introduction to the next song.

Questions or comments? Contact us at h2ghelp@heartstogod.com.