

12/24 2:30P	12/24 4:00P	12/24 5:30P	12/24 7:00P	Length in mins	Notes
2:20p	3:50p	5:20p	6:50p	10:00	<b>Countdown</b>
2:30p	4:00p	5:30p	7:00p	2:00	<b>Welcome-Host</b>
2:32p	4:02p	5:32p	7:02p	4:00	<b>In The Beginning</b> Script: Lise, Matt, Mary
2:36p	4:06p	5:36p	7:06p	4:00	<b>O Praise Him</b> Tom leading.
2:40p	4:10p	5:40p	7:10p	5:00	<b>Script with Christmas Story</b> Lise, Matt, Mary (Script attached to "The Longing")
2:45p	4:15p	5:45p	7:15p	3:00	<b>The Longing</b> Narration with "O Come, O Come Emmanuel": Lise, Matt, Mary
2:48p	4:18p	5:48p	7:18p	5:00	<b>O Holy Night</b> Laura leading.
2:53p	4:23p	5:53p	7:23p	4:00	<b>Silent Night</b> Joy leading.
2:57p	4:27p	5:57p	7:27p	7:00	<b>Message</b> Gary leading. Jesus came to rescue us. You are invited into the story.
3:04p	4:34p	6:04p	7:34p	2:00	<b>Communion Prep/Invitation to the Porch</b> Gary leading.
3:06p	4:36p	6:06p	7:36p	0:00	<b>Communion Received</b> "What Child is This?" played during Communion Received.
3:06p	4:36p	6:06p	7:36p	5:00	<b>What Child Is This</b> Todd and Joy leading. Acoustic, violin, and vocals only.
3:11p	4:41p	6:11p	7:41p	3:00	<b>Your Story Changes</b> Script: Lise
3:14p	4:44p	6:14p	7:44p	4:00	<b>He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)</b> Feature piece. Mary leading. Baileigh dancing.
3:18p	4:48p	6:18p	7:48p	5:00	<b>O Come All Ye Faithful</b> Laura leading. BAPTISMS HERE
3:23p	4:53p	6:23p	7:53p	3:00	<b>Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)</b> Todd leading

<b>12/24</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>Length</b>		
<b>2:30P</b>	<b>4:00P</b>	<b>5:30P</b>	<b>7:00P</b>	<b>in</b>		
				<b>mins</b>		<b>Notes</b>
3:26p	4:56p	6:26p	7:56p	<b>1:00</b>	<b>Sending</b>	
3:27p	4:57p	6:27p	7:57p	<b>57:00</b>		

## “In The Beginning”

Lise: We’re here tonight to tell a story. It’s no ordinary story. It’s no fairy tale either. It’s not a tragic story even though parts of it are filled with sorrow and longing. It’s a true story. A story filled with love, but most of all a story filled with hope. Hope that is real. Hope that is alive. Hope that has lasted for centuries. And it all started in the beginning.

Matt: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Lise: In the beginning God laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of His hands.

Matt: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Lise: Creation resounds with God’s handiwork. The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of his hands. All of creation was singing God’s praises.

Mary: *(singing) O Praise Him. (singing underscores the next two paragraphs.)*

Matt: Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Let them praise the name of the Lord for he commanded and they were created.

Lise: Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding. You mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild animals and cattle, small creatures and flying birds, young men and maidens, old men and children.

Matt: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. *(Psalm 148)*

*“O Praise Him” music begins.*

Lise: All the earth was declaring the glory of God. Creation couldn’t stop praising his name.

*“O Praise Him” – congregational song.*

## “The Longing” & “Christmas Story”

Lise: Creation was singing, “Alleluia,” to God – God who is loving and constant and holy. In the beginning, creation was unblemished. Flawless. Perfect. What God saw was very good.

But sin entered and with it, the flawless, perfect beauty was broken. And the longing began.

Creation was now groaning. Aching for what once was. Yearning for redemption. For a Savior.

Mary: O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.

Lise: Creation was watching, holding its breath, awaiting a rescue.

Mary: O Come Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Matt: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Lise: Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and full redemption.

Matt: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Lise: Because God is compassionate, a way was made. A way for the longing to be fulfilled. For the broken to be made whole again. For the hopeless to be rescued. But it wasn’t exactly what they expected . . .

Matt: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.

Lise: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to

the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matt: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Mary: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Matt: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Lise: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Matt: For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the world.

Mary: For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

Lise: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor.

Matt:       Mighty God,

Mary:       Everlasting Father

Lise:       Prince of Peace.

*O Holy Night*  
*Silent Night*

## **Your Story Changes**

### *A Monologue Invitation for Christmas*

Lise: The story we've heard tonight isn't just the story of Christmas. It's the story of a mighty Savior who made a way for us to be rescued. Redeemed. Restored. It's the story of a manger, but it's also the story of cross, an empty tomb, and a risen King.

Hope lives in this story. Hope dwells at its core. Because this story isn't just about the past—it's about the future. It's his story, and your story, and my story. And it isn't over. It's being written still. We have been invited into God's story. And when we choose to enter it, our story changes. He has come for us, and in him we find life, and peace, and hope.

***Confessional Responsive Reading before "The Stand"***  
***3/22-23/14***

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,  
and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

All: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!  
For your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.  
Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.  
Relieve the troubles of my heart,  
and bring me out of my distress.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.

—Psalm 25:6-7, 11, 16-18, NRSV

Leader: Out of the depths we cry to you, O LORD.  
Lord, hear our prayer!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to our cry for mercy.

All: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
Therefore you are feared.

Leader: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is unfailing love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

—from Psalm 130

- Actor 1: In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of Your hands.  
They will perish, but you remain.  
They will all wear out like a garment, but you remain the same.
- Actor 2: You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  
By You all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible.  
All things were created by You and for You.  
You are before all things, and in You all things are held together.
- Actor 3: You are the Lord, the great God, the great King above all gods.  
In your hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to You.  
The sea is Yours, for You made it, and Your hands formed the dry land.
- Actor 2: You sit enthroned above the circle of the earth,  
And its people are like grasshoppers.  
You stretch out the heavens like a curtain  
and spread them out like a tent to dwell in.  
You reduce rulers and power brokers to nothing  
and make the judges of this world meaningless.
- Actor 3: You, O Holy One, have asked,  
“To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?”  
We lift our eyes to the heavens and see You who created them.  
You bring out the starry host by number and call them each by name.  
Because of Your great might and the strength of Your power,  
not one of them is missing.
- Actor 1: Do we not know? Have we not heard?  
You are the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
You do not grow tired or weary.  
No one can fathom Your understanding.
- Actor 2: You came to preach good news to the poor.  
You have come to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
And release from darkness for the prisoners,
- Actor 1: You comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
You bestow a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
And a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.  
You clothe Your children with garments of salvation, robes of righteousness.
- Actor 3: I will praise Your name. My soul will not forget all Your benefits.

You forgive all my sin and heal all my disease.  
You redeem my life from the pit and crown me with love and compassion.

Actor 2: You are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
You will not always accuse and you do not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to how we've wronged You.

Actor 1: Jesus, You are the King of glory, the Lord, strong and mighty.

Actor 3: Jesus, You are the bread of life, the Light of the world.

Actor 2: Jesus, You are the vine, the good shepherd.

Actor 1: You are the way, the truth, and the life. You are the Great I Am.

Actor 3: You are exalted to the highest place and given the name  
that is above every other name.

Actor 2: At Your name, the enemy flees.

Actor 1: At Your name, Jesus, every knee will bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

All: We believe that You, Jesus, are Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

You, Jesus, are the true vine and God, the Father is the keeper of the vineyard. God, the Father, examines every branch in You and cuts away those who do not bear fruit. He leaves those bearing fruit and carefully prunes them so that they will bear more fruit. Already I am clean because I have heard Your voice. Help me to abide in You and You will abide in me. A branch cannot bear fruit if it is disconnected from the vine, and neither will I if I am not connected to you, Jesus.

*You are already clean.*

*God's pruning-cleansing is so you will bear more fruit.*

*A disconnected branch cannot bear fruit.*

*Are you connected to the Vine?*

You, Jesus are the vine and I am the branch. If I abide in You and you in me, I will bear great fruit. Without you, Jesus, I will accomplish nothing. If anyone does not abide in You, he is like a branch that is tossed out and shrivels up and is later gathered to be tossed into the fire to burn. If I abide in You and Your voice abides in me, anything I ask will come to pass. My growth and my faithfulness as Your follower will bring glory to the Father.

*We want to be full of life.*

*The Vine is our source.*

*When we abide in You,*

*the world can see we belong to You.*

*Can the world see that you belong to Jesus?*

Jesus, you have loved me as the Father has loved You. Help me to abide in Your love. I want to follow Your example in obeying the Father's commandments and receiving His love. If I obey Your commandments, I

will stay in Your love. You have told me this so that Your joy may be in me and that my joy may be complete. Your commandment to me is this: love others as You have loved me. There is no greater way to love than for me to lay down my life for my friends.

*Christ's love for us gives us complete joy.  
We are to follow Christ's example of unending love.  
This love lived to die.*

*Will we allow ourselves to at least be inconvenienced—or even more—for the sake of loving others?*

You chose me and appointed me to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

*Responsive Reading for "Overcome"*

**Leader:** Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near  
for battle against your enemies:  
let not your heart faint.  
Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them,  
for the LORD your God is he who goes with you  
to fight for you against your enemies,  
to give you the victory.

**All:** Blessed are you, O LORD,  
the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.  
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the victory and the majesty,  
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.  
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,  
and you are exalted as head above all.  
Both riches and honor come from you,  
and you rule over all.  
In your hand are power and might,  
and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

**Leader:** You belong to God, my dear children.  
You have already won a victory,  
because the Spirit who lives in you  
is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

**All:** He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress where I will not be shaken.  
My victory and honor come from God alone.  
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

With God's help we will do mighty things,  
for he will trample down our foes.

**Leader:** It has come at last—  
salvation and power  
and the Kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Christ.  
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters  
has been hurled down—  
the one who accuses them  
before our God day and night.

**All:** They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.

**Leader:** No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel  
can avail against the LORD.  
The horse is made ready for the day of battle,  
but the victory belongs to the LORD.  
The LORD has demonstrated his holy power  
before the eyes of all the nations.  
All the ends of the earth will see  
the victory of our God.

*References:*

*Deuteronomy 20:3-4; I Chronicles 29:10-12; I John 4:4; Psalm 62:5-7; Psalm 108:13; Revelation 12:11-12; Proverbs 21:30-31; Isaiah 52:10*

*Translations used:*

*ESV, NLT, NIV*

**Scripture 1-between Verse 1 and Verse 2 of Revelation Song**

For great is the LORD and most **worthy** of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

I call to the LORD, who is **worthy** of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

“You are **worthy**, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

**Scripture 2-Before Verse 4 of Revelation Song**

- <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,  
giving them the lands of other nations.  
<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.  
<sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever,  
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.  
<sup>9</sup> He provided redemption for his people;  
he ordained his covenant forever—  
holy and awesome is his name.

Psalm 111:6-9

**Scripture 3-Between Revelation Song and Great I Am**

- <sup>5</sup> You are forgiving and good, O Lord,  
abounding in love to all who call to you.  
<sup>6</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD;  
listen to my cry for mercy.  
<sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I will call to you,  
for you will answer me.  
<sup>8</sup> Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;  
no deeds can compare with yours.  
<sup>10</sup> For you are great and do marvelous deeds;  
you alone are God.

Psalm 86:5-8, 10

**Scripture 4-after Chorus 1 of Great I Am**

- <sup>3</sup> I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,  
and I am saved from my enemies.  
<sup>4</sup> The cords of death entangled me;  
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.  
<sup>6</sup> In my distress I called to the LORD;  
I cried to my God for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came before him, into his ears.

<sup>7</sup> The earth trembled and quaked,  
and the foundations of the mountains shook;  
<sup>16</sup> He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
he drew me out of deep waters.  
<sup>17</sup> He rescued me from my powerful enemy,  
from my foes, who were too strong for me.  
<sup>4</sup> For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you  
to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”

**Scripture 5—*After Great I am***

“Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.”  
“You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.”