



CHRISTMAS WRAPPINGS

(This sketch requires a Narrator and five readers dressed or carrying props as directed in the script.)

Narrator: I always look forward to Advent and Christmas. Our LWML Christmas meeting often comes early and sets the tone. To share this, I invited some friends to come, but each gave me excuses...they were all wrapped up in other things. So, I drove the church bus to each one's house and told them, "It's a come-as-you-are party." The bus is unloaded now and each has come as I found her. One by one they'll find their way in here.

(Enter the Gift Wrapper in gift ribbon, bows, tape, etc.)

Gift Wrapper: Will somebody please help me? I'm all tied up with Christmas.

Narrator: I would say you are, but what's the meaning of all this?

Gift Wrapper: I'm determined that this year I'll not be tied in knots wrapping gifts until late on December 24th. Last year I didn't even get to the Candlelight Service. This time I'll finish early.

Narrator: It looks like wrapping has finished you! You know there's another word that sounds almost like wrapped - it's R-A-P-T. If you're so preoccupied, you're losing out on being RAPT in the wonder of the coming of Jesus.

Gift Wrapper: I guess you're right. Thanks for untying my inside knots. And now will you please set me loose? *(Narrator snips ribbons that have Gift Wrapper tied up; Gift Wrapper exits.)*

(Baker enters carrying cookie sheets, spatulas, mixer, etc.)

Narrator: Well, who's this, the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz clanking in here?

Baker: Sorry about the noise, but I've just got to get my baking done.

Narrator: Just how much do you have to do?

Baker: Stollen, cookies by the dozens, coffeecakes to freeze, fruitcakes!

Narrator: Fruitcake is right! Don't you think it's kind of silly to focus so much of your attention on one thing? You're so hot on baking that I hope you're not cool to Jesus' coming.

Baker: I'll have to admit, I've been so busy in the kitchen that my oven hasn't had a chance to cool down. Maybe I'd better get things in perspective and warm up to what this season is all about - Jesus' coming. *(Baker exits.)*

(Cleaner enters with feather duster, mop, dust cloth, bandanna.)

Cleaner: Has anybody seen my Pledge?

Narrator: Did you lose it on Loyalty Sunday?

Cleaner: No, not that pledge. I'll think about stewardship later - maybe in January. I've got to get my house spotless for the holidays. That comes first.

Narrator: We're expecting company at our house. Are you?

Cleaner: Oh, the entrance to our house is like a revolving door at Christmas, a string of parties, two sets of out-of-town company. It'll be a constant stream!

Narrator: What about the Special Guest?

Cleaner: Huh, what do you mean?

Narrator: One Advent hymn has the words, "Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest." We have to get our hearts ready in order to welcome Him in.

Cleaner: Thanks for reminding me of what's important. I was planning to celebrate a birthday and forgot the guest of honor. *(Cleaner exits.)*

(Enter Card Sender with arm in sling, address book, stamps, cards.)

Narrator: What happened? Is your arm broken?

Card Sender: Nearly! I'm not quite finished with Christmas cards, but my fingers and hand have had it.

Narrator: There must be some way around your problem. Could you start earlier? Write less? Use address labels?

Card Sender: I don't know. If I have too many left to do, I don't think I'll get to Advent service Wednesday night.

Narrator: I have a friend who sends cards at Easter instead of the busy Christmas season. Another I know only sends cards to out-of-town people she can't greet personally.

Card Sender: Well, something's got to change, but I don't want to stop sending cards. I enjoy receiving greetings from my friends along with all the newsy notes and pictures.

Narrator: Please don't let the task keep you from attending church services. That's when God can send His Christmas message to you.

Card Sender: You're right! Christmas cards can wait, but God's message can't. See you in church! *(Card Sender exits.)*

(Shopper enters carrying tottering pile of packages.)

Narrator: Whoa! Looks like you've worn out your charge cards.

Shopper: This business of gift exchanging has me frantic and broke.

Narrator: Why do you let it get so out of hand?

Shopper: Oh, one thing leads to another. A friend or relative gives you a gift and then you feel obligated to give one in return - at least by the next Christmas. It seems, too, that people give bigger and better gifts each year. It's hard to keep up. My budget is shattered and so is my disposition.

Narrator: Maybe we have to step back and take a serious look at why we give gifts. You know that if we'd try to match gifts we could never match the Gift God gave us. He gave His very best - His Son. What's the best thing you have to give?

Shopper: Now I see it. I can give all of myself to God and serve Him instead of concentrating on all these material things.

Narrator: Now you're putting yourself in the charge of the Master instead of your Master Charge. *(Shopper exits.)* I'm glad my friends came tonight. Let's all try to keep our priorities in order. Have a blessed Christ-filled Christmas.

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