**IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE** (SERMON SERIES WITH DRAMA)

This five part series for Advent uses the classic holiday film, "It's a Wonderful Life," as a creative vehicle to preach the lessons of Advent. The approach was especially effective as we related ancient texts (lectionary Year A) to contemporary settings using classic film.

Each week of the series featured a clip from the movie, followed by a brief dramatic appearance by an actor depicting a character we had just seen in black and white. That actor expanded upon the theme for the day and then lit the appropriate Advent candles.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

“It’s A Wonderful Life: Trust It”

Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph trusted in God and kept Mary as his wife even though society’s rules told him he shouldn’t. In what ways are we being called to trust in order to play our part in God’s story?

Film clip: George and Mary in their car after their wedding and George runs to the Building and Loan in the rain and lets everyone in.

Drama: Mary, with umbrella

MARY: You know, I’ve heard that rain on your wedding day is a sign of a blessed marriage. I had so many hopes for that day and had no clue as to how it would turn out. But then, (she gestures the screen) life happens no matter how many plans you make. George showed the part of himself that day that I have seen in him all along. It’s why I married him. Impossible odds, not knowing what direction to take, yet not giving up on the belief he had deep in his heart for those nearest to him that he loved and cared about. As we light this fourth Advent candle, we celebrate God's promise—a promise we can always trust.