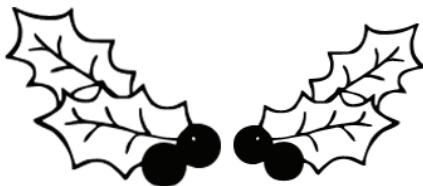


“Celebrate Advent”

A collection of dramatic sketches to enhance the holiday tradition of Advent.

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INTRODUCTION

What is Advent?

Advent is a wonderful time of celebratory preparation to Christmas day, and the birth of our Lord, Jesus! Advent is a four week journey through the five major themes of Christmas which help to prepare our minds for the full impact and meaning Christmas day should have on all of us.

Five candles are used to represent each week and theme of advent. The first four are traditionally placed in a wreath, with the fifth candle placed in the center.

The Advent service begins with the lighting of the current weeks candle (with any others of the preceding weeks) followed by a reading of the corresponding scripture.

The first week of December is “The Prophets” represented by a gold candle.

The second week of December is “The Angels” represented by a white candle.

The third week of December is “The Shepherds” represented by a green candle.

The fourth week of December is “The Magi” represented by a blue candle.

The fifth candle, lit on Christmas Eve, is “The Savior” and is represented by a red candle.

These scripts were written to begin the advent portion of a

Sunday service by enhancing and hopefully adding a new perspective to each theme.

Each chapter in this collection is a complete advent production for each week, no longer than seven to ten minutes. The script is followed by the suggested scripture reading for each theme and an appropriate song for the congregation. After each script has been performed, the pastor or minister of music can read the scripture, while a child from the Church body lights the candle(s), and then the song can be sung.

Production Notes about the Scripts.

These scripts were written for ease of production and maximum impact.

They are simple to stage, require few set pieces and props (if any), and can be performed by the seasoned actor or the novice.

Week one only requires a small scroll and pen suiting the time period. A bench or a couple wooden boxes can also be used for actors to sit on. Simple costumes appropriate to the time period are all that's needed as well.

Week two requires no props or set pieces and the angelic costumes can be as simple or elaborate as you care to make them.

Week three requires no set pieces and a Shepherds crook can be used, but is not necessary. A simple Shepherds costume is needed as well as some type of sheep costume. Again, this costume can be as simple or elaborate as you care to make it.

Week four requires no set pieces and a small scroll (used in week one!) is needed as well as a small, ornate bottle or pouch. The Magi costume is, again, up to your discretion, budget, and resources.

Week five is very flexible and can be staged to your creative inspiration. Costumes for Mary and Joseph can be used, an empty manger can also be used but is not required. Since this is a dramatic reading, setting it in the time period will defiantly enhance it and add contextual meaning, but use it as it suits your church body and resources.

These scripts are fun to perform, and we received a lot of positive feedback from my church body on how much these ministered to them. It is my pleasure to share these with you in the hopes that you also have fun and maybe, just maybe, these will help to lessen the focus on the rush of the season and emphasize the real reason for this season.

Please feel free to use these as you see fit and if you do decide to produce these I would love it if you let me know about it. Thanks!

God Bless,

David Morris, author.
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WEEK ONE
“The Prophets”

CAST:

Isaiah, the Prophet

Isaiah’s Wife

(Setting: The house of ISAIAH and his WIFE. The scene opens in the main room of the house, with ISAIAH lying on the floor. WIFE enters and notices him. Not too concerned she goes over and shakes him.)

WIFE: Isaiah? Are you all right?

ISAIAH: *(Wakes)* Oh, yes ... I just had another vision.

WIFE: Another one! Well *(sits)* let me hear it.

ISAIAH: It was very ... hopeful.

WIFE: Oh! Good! I was ready for ... well, lets just say I’ve had enough woes and judgments for a while.

ISAIAH: Exactly! This was a light - a small spark in the darkness. After all of the warning against wickedness --

WIFE: -- Those were a real winner with the king --

ISAIAH: -- There is now a counter point ... but it’s so very strange.

WIFE: Strange ... how so?

ISAIAH: Well ... I saw people, thousands stumbling around in the dark. There was nothing - just a barren, black land ...

WIFE: Sounds like the darkness hovered like the shadow of death.

ISAIAH: Yes! Just like that - so then in the --

WIFE: Get out your scroll and write or you'll forget this vision like you almost did the last one.

ISAIAH: Yes, yes, thank you. (*Fumbles for scroll and ink*) Funny that the Lord would give me such important visions when I can't remember what we had for breakfast. (*Prepares to write*)

WIFE: That's why we gave me to you.

ISAIAH: Exactly!

WIFE: Continue ...

ISAIAH: ... was it fruit and potato cakes?

WIFE: Matzo and eggs.

ISAIAH: Right! So anyway, in the midst of this dark, frantic chaos, a small point of light appeared. No one noticed at first, but soon it grew in size and intensity --

WIFE: So those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned ...

ISAIAH: Oh that's good! (*Writes*) So it grows larger and brighter - and then it ...

WIFE: What?

ISAIAH: It took the form of a baby.

WIFE: A baby!

ISAIAH: A child - a baby boy.

WIFE: That is strange ... then what?

ISAIAH: The people stopped stumbling around - they were given direction by this child.

WIFE: How could a child do that? What does it mean?

ISAIAH: I don't know, but this baby was powerful - he had small, golden crowns with the kings emblems hovering around him - he controlled them.

WIFE: Ah! He has the government on his shoulders! Now we need that! (*Isaiah writes*) What I wouldn't give to see that!

ISAIAH: Shhh! Not so loud - the Kings ears are everywhere.

WIFE: Your words have turned plenty of ears red, I doubt a few more would matter. Tell me more about this mighty child.

ISAIAH: Well, he wasn't just powerful, he was so much more. It was so amazing - I don't know how I'll describe it.

WIFE: Just tell it.

ISAIAH: People would step into his light and feel compelled to pour out their sorrow and he would listen to them --

WIFE: (*Almost to herself*) -- mmm ... a Wonderful Counselor --

ISAIAH: But there were others who would stagger in the light, and fall down speechless on their knees before Him --

WIFE: (*As before*) -- such a Mighty God --

ISAIAH: -- And his light filled the darkness, it stretched into the whole world and not a shadow remained! Everywhere the light touched the people felt love --

WIFE: (*As before*) -- Like an everlasting Father --

ISAIAH: Those in the light who had weapons and hate, laid them down and humbled themselves before those who they called enemy, and fought no more --

WIFE: -- A Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH: Oh to see such sights and fumble with words to portray it. How to ... what did you just say?

WIFE: What? When? I didn't say anything, I was just listening.

ISAIAH: But you listen with your mouth. What were you saying?

WIFE: Well, as you told me of the effect he had on these people I just saw a uh ... a Wonderful Counselor ... a very Mighty God ... an enduring Everlasting Father ... and a Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH: *(Stares at her for a long moment, then gives her a big kiss.)* I may be a voice of God, but you are truly the soul of God

WIFE: *(Slightly embarrassed)* Well ... I do what I can ... now get writing! You don't want to forget this like you forgot the day of your weekly meeting with the King.

ISAIAH: Yes, yes it's all very clear to me now! Thank you dear - thank you!

(WIFE starts to exit, stops and watches ISAIAH write furiously - smiles and turn to exit)

ISAIAH: Tuesday?

WIFE: Thursday.

(WIFE exits)

THE END

WEEK ONE SCRIPTURE READING:

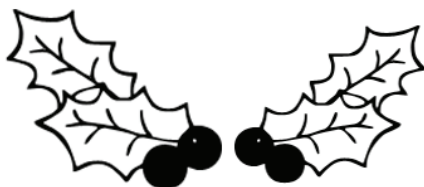
(Light the Gold candle)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:2,6 (ASV)

Sample Only



WEEK ONE SUGGESTED SONG:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

9th century Latin; translation by John M. Neale [public domain]

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

