

“ADVENT READING”

by
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Synopsis

During the season of Advent, Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ. However, this is not just a time to commemorate Jesus' first coming, but a time of preparation for His second coming. This Reader's Theater presentation is split into five separate readings; one reading for each of the four Sundays leading to Christmas and one reading for Christmas Eve. This is a powerful presentation to promote the true spirit of the Advent season in our heart and its relevance to our life.

Scripture

Isaiah 9:6
Matthew 25:13

Ministry Lesson

Just as the prophets anxiously waited for the birth of the Messiah, we (as the bridesmaids of Christ) are anxiously waiting for the return of the Messiah. As we remember and celebrate Jesus' first coming let us also be in preparation and anticipation for Jesus' second coming. Our anticipation is expressed in our Hope for His coming, our Faith in His coming, our Joy in His presence, and our Love for Him.

Ministry Theme

Advent, Christmas

Three Readers

- Past
- Present
- Future

Prop

Three black folders for the script

Costumes

None

Time: 3 minutes each reading; one reading per week.

Sound EFX

None

Director's notes

This presentation can be performed with, or without, the use of the advent wreath and candles. If candles are used, **three purple or blue-colored candles** should be used for the first, second, and fourth Sundays. A **pink or rose-colored candle** should be used for the third Sunday, in celebration of the joy of the birth (presence) of Christ. A white-colored candle can be used for the fifth Sunday (Christmas Eve).

Each reader should read at a controlled pace with soft expression and emphasis on key words within the dialogue. Playing soft music (live or recorded) in the background sets the atmosphere for the reading. However, only use background music if you have a microphone per reader. The message is more important than the music.

A suggested Christmas carol for the choir to sing after the reading presentation is listed at the end of each reading.

1st Sunday of Advent - Hope and Expectation

Present: Today is the beginning of the season of Advent

Past: Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas by celebrating the "coming" or "arrival" of Jesus the Christ.

Present: But Advent is much more than marking a 2,000-year-old event in history

Future: Advent is also a time of anticipation and preparation of the second coming of Christ.

Present: Advent is a time of spiritual awakening as we acknowledge our **Hope** for deliverance through Christ.

Past: Our **Faith** in the coming of Christ

Future: The **Joy** of the presence of Christ

Past: And the **Love** of Christ

Present: It is these gifts of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, that we celebrate each Sunday leading to Christmas.

Past: In times past, we looked forward to God's promise of the Messiah with great hope and expectation. Today, let us celebrate the light of hope we have in Christ.
[Light the first candle - optional]

Present: The glorious hope of the coming Messiah as proclaimed by the prophets...

Past: Pronounced by the angels...

Future: And produced by God through the Virgin Mary.

Past: Christ was the Hope of the Shepherds and the Wise Men in the past.

Present: Christ is the Hope to those who endure trials and tribulations today.

Future: Christ will be the Hope for eternal peace, justice, and righteousness tomorrow.

Present: Therefore, on this first Sunday of Advent, we thank God for the **Expectancy and Hope** we have in the coming of Christ.

Choir to sing - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"

2nd Sunday of Advent - Faithful Anticipation

- Present:** Today is the second Sunday of Advent as we continue our spiritual journey in the preparation and celebration of Christmas.
- Past:** Last week, we were reminded of the hope and expectation we have of the coming of Christ. [*Relight the first candle - optional*].
- Future:** Though we live in this world of sin and darkness, the light of our hope in Christ is ever present.
- Present:** But what good is hope without faith?
- Future:** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- Past:** In times past, it was by faith that ordinary men and women were justified in the sight of God.
- Present:** On this second Sunday of Advent, we acknowledge our faith in the promises of God. The light of our faith is illuminated in Christ. [*Light the second candle - optional*]
- Past:** It is on the foundation of faith that the prophets of old anxiously awaited the coming of the Messiah.
- Future:** It was by faith that Mary believed she would conceive the Christ child.
- Present:** And by faith, the Wise Men traveled from distant lands to worship the King of Kings.
- Future:** By God's grace we are now saved through faith in the One who came, died, rose from the dead, and will soon come again.
- Past:** Therefore, let us prepare ourselves to live faithfully.
- Present:** On God's promise that He would not leave us comfortless, but comfort us in our times of need.
- Future:** On God's promise that He loves us and cares about us.
- Past:** On God's promise that He is preparing a place for us and He will return again to take us there.
- Present:** Therefore, on this second Sunday of Advent, let us celebrate our **Faithful Anticipation** of the coming of Christ.

Choir to sing - "O Come All Ye Faithful"

3rd Sunday of Advent - Joyful Celebration

- Present:** Today is the third Sunday of Advent as we continue our spiritual journey in the preparation and celebration of Christmas.
- Past:** During the first week, we were reminded of the hope and expectation we have of the coming of Christ. [*Relight the first candle - optional*].
- Future:** Last week, we were reminded of our faithful anticipation for the coming of Christ. [*Relight the second candle - optional*].
- Present:** There is no greater joy in life than the joy of a fulfilled promise and answered prayer.
- Past:** After 400 years of silent from God..
- Future:** ...comes an angelic proclamation to the lowly shepherds.
- Present:** "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great **Joy**..."
- Past:** "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord."
- Future:** And the night sky fills with joyful praise by the hosts of heaven, saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will toward men."
- Present:** It is this **Joy** we commemorate on this third Sunday of Advent. [*Light the third "pink" candle - optional*]
- Past:** When the Infinite God stepped into the history of Time.
- Future:** When the Almighty Creator manifested Himself as a creation.
- Present:** And the promise was fulfilled; the gift was given, as we beheld the joy of our salvation lying in a manger.
- Future:** At Christmas we celebrate the joy of the first coming of Christ, however we will experience a greater joy at His second coming.
- Past:** For the day will come when we will leave this earthen vessel.
- Present:** When this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.
- Future:** And we will be like Him, and not only that, we shall see Him face to face.
- Past:** Then our **joy** will be complete.
- Present:** Therefore, on this third Sunday of Advent, let us engage in a **Joyful Celebration** of the coming of Christ.

Choir to sing - "Joy To The World"

4th Sunday of Advent - Love and Devotion

Present: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent as we continue our spiritual journey in the preparation and celebration of Christmas.

- End of Preview -

Continue this Lenten journey with the reading of the 4th Sunday, "Love and Devotion", and the Christmas Eve reflections on the Coming of Christ and the Redemption of Mankind
