

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

by Susan Pargman



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.*

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

**ADVENT CANDLE-
LIGHTING**

By Susan Pargman

PRODUCTION NOTES

This is a series of four skits that use different characters each week. The parts are played by characters from your own church, and they play themselves. In some places, I have filled in names just for convenience. Use your own names to personalize each skit. And have a Merry Christmas!

PROPS: At our church we had a florist make up a very pretty Advent wreath with four red candles surrounding one white candle. On the first Sunday in Advent, the characters in the skit lit one candle. On the second Sunday, they lit two, and so on.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Hand out the scripts at least two weeks ahead of performance time so the actors can memorize their lines. Make sure they know that you expect them to have the lines memorized. Then run through the skit with them on the morning of their candle-lighting. A microphone on the table may be helpful for hearing the speakers. Be sure they have matches, and be sure to make it a fun and relaxed time. If someone in your church is gifted in a special way — a child who can sing, an adult who can recite or play an instrument — work that into the script.

Each Sunday the pastor can announce that “so and so” is going to light the Advent candle this day. He can precede the skit by talking about the tradition of candle-lighting during Advent. The candle stays burning throughout the service as a reminder of the season.

The Scripture verses in “Trusting God” are taken from The Living Bible © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.

*This perusal script is for reading purposes only.
No performance or photocopy rights are conveyed.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

First Sunday in Advent

Expectation

Second Sunday in Advent

Trusting God

Third Sunday in Advent

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Best Gift of All

First Sunday in Advent
EXPECTATION

- 1
2
3
- 4 **CHARACTERS:** MAN, WOMAN. (An older couple who is well-
5 established in the church.)
- 6 **SETTING:** MAN and WOMAN come forward and light one candle.
7
- 8 **WOMAN:** You know, (name), I was just thinking about
9 something.
- 10 **MAN:** What's that?
- 11 **WOMAN:** As we lit this first candle, it made me think about
12 the prophets in the Old Testament.
- 13 **MAN:** Why did it make you think of the prophets?
- 14 **WOMAN:** Well, around this time of year, we're all preparing
15 for Christmas. You know, decorating our houses, buying
16 gifts, planning parties, things like that.
- 17 **MAN:** I see . . . and the prophets in the Old Testament were
18 preparing for something special, too.
- 19 **WOMAN:** That's right.
- 20 **MAN:** Way back in the days of Isaiah, about seven hundred
21 years before Christ was born, Isaiah proclaimed,
22 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold,
23 a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his
24 name Immanuel." (*Isaiah 7:14*)
- 25 **WOMAN:** And all through the Old Testament people were
26 waiting for the Savior to be born. They were watching for
27 him, predicting his coming, expecting him at any time.
- 28 **MAN:** I still expect him at any time.
- 29 **WOMAN:** That's what the word "Advent" means: the coming
30 of Christ.
- 31 **MAN:** And the coming of Christmas . . . By the way, what are
32 you getting me this year? You know — for my Christmas
33 present . . .
- 34 **WOMAN:** You really want to know?
- 35 **MAN:** Sure!

- 1 **WOMAN:** Well then, I'll give you a hint.
- 2 **MAN:** Okay.
- 3 **WOMAN:** You know that (insert item) you've always wanted?
- 4 **MAN:** *(Getting excited)* Yes?
- 5 **WOMAN:** Well, you're not getting it.
- 6 **MAN:** *(Disappointed)* Is that my hint?
- 7 **WOMAN:** That's it.
- 8 **MAN:** That doesn't tell me anything.
- 9 **WOMAN:** Expectation and surprise are all a special part of
- 10 the Christmas season. Now you don't really want to know
- 11 what you're getting for Christmas, do you?
- 12 **MAN:** Well . . .
- 13 **WOMAN:** That would spoil the surprise.
- 14 **MAN:** Well . . .
- 15 **WOMAN:** (MAN's name)!
- 16 **MAN:** I'm just kidding. What would Christmas be without
- 17 surprises?
- 18 **WOMAN:** It's a time to be preparing, expecting, and thinking
- 19 about the coming of Christ.
- 20 **MAN:** And it's a perfect time to share your faith, hope, and
- 21 love with others.
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35

Second Sunday in Advent
TRUSTING GOD

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

CHARACTERS: MAN, WOMAN. (The MAN and WOMAN are a young married couple.)

NOTE: The reading is from Luke 1:26-38.

SCENE: The MAN and WOMAN come forward and light two candles.

WOMAN: (*Reading*) The following month God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin, Mary, engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

MAN: (*Reading*) Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Congratulations, favored lady! The Lord is with you!"

WOMAN: (*Reading*) Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

MAN: (*Reading*) "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to wonderfully bless you! Very soon now, you will become pregnant and have a baby boy, and you are to name him Jesus. He shall be very great and shall be called the Son of God. And the Lord God shall give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he shall reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom shall never end!"

WOMAN: (*Reading*) Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin."

MAN: (*Reading*) The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you; so the baby born to you will be utterly holy — the Son of God. Furthermore, six months ago your Aunt Elizabeth — 'the barren one', they called her — became pregnant in her old age! For every promise from God shall surely come true."

WOMAN: (*Reading*) Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you

1 said come true.” And then the angel disappeared. *(To her*
2 *husband)* Can you imagine what it must have been like for
3 Mary? She was engaged to Joseph, and became pregnant
4 with God’s Son. That must have taken a lot of faith for
5 her to get through something like that.

6 **MAN:** That must be why God gave her Joseph.

7 **WOMAN:** What do you mean?

8 **MAN:** She needed someone close to her who would
9 understand the situation; an intimate friend who could
10 protect her. I can’t imagine it was a very popular thing
11 back then to be pregnant before you were married.

12 **WOMAN:** If it was a disgrace, why did God ask Mary to bear
13 his son?

14 **MAN:** It was no disgrace for Mary. She totally trusted God.
15 The disgrace was only in the minds of the Godless people
16 around her. To Mary, it was an honor. She was amazed
17 that God would even choose her.

18 **WOMAN:** *(Reading)* Mary responded, “Oh how I praise the
19 Lord. How I rejoice in God, my Savior! For he took notice
20 of his lowly servant girl, and now generation after
21 generation forever shall call me blessed of God.”

22 **MAN:** But there’s a part of this story that I really love; and
23 that is that she didn’t have to go through it alone. She
24 shared the blessing and the burden with someone else
25 who was very close to her.

26 **WOMAN:** That’s right. God gave her Joseph to support her,
27 protect her, and confide in. They must have had a beautiful
28 relationship.

29 **MAN:** God is good that way. He blesses us by allowing us to
30 be part of his plan . . .

31 **WOMAN:** . . . And then he gives us everything we need to
32 carry out his will; even emotional support.

33 **MAN:** You know, God really blessed me when he gave me you
34 for my best friend.

35 **WOMAN:** That’s a lovely thing to say . . .

1 **MAN:** No, really. I'm a part of God's plan to love this world
2 just like you are. God knew that I'd need a special friend
3 to help me out.

4 **WOMAN:** And he knew I'd need a friend exactly like you.
5 With God's help, we can keep working to do his will and
6 meet each others' needs, because our love for each other
7 is all part of his plan.

8 **MAN:** Amen. Merry Christmas, (WOMAN's name).

9 **WOMAN:** Merry Christmas. *(They hug.)*

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Third Sunday in Advent
WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

CHARACTERS: Four "single" adults: BILL, JERI, BOB, STEVE.

NOTE: The reading is from Matthew 2:1-11.

SCENE: They come forward and light three candles.

BILL: *(Reading)* Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh.

JERI: The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus. They brought him gold, which even today is the measure of all



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

by Susan Pargman.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com