

THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

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.

**THE SUNDAYS OF
ADVENT**

By Susan Pargman

PRODUCTION NOTES

The lighting of the Advent candles is a meaningful tradition that builds anticipation for Christmas. These five skits were designed to enhance the candle lighting throughout Advent and on Christmas morning. While we all enjoy holiday traditions, it seems they always revolve around two-parent families. Now singles may be included as two of these skits were written especially for them. The first skit, HOPE, is cast with two single adults, and LOVE is cast with a single parent with two teenagers. No one is left out!

If you personalize each skit with your own names, expressions, local color, possessions, etc., your skit will be more interesting to the congregation. For example, in the second skit, LOVE, an item of contention is a cherished Red Sea Beach Club tee shirt. For you, it might be a Hard Rock Cafe tee shirt, or a new sports car, or . . . use your imagination!

The props are minimal. Remember to bring matches to light the candles in every skit. The only other things you'll need are several wrapped presents (HOPE), and a Bible (LOVE, PEACE). No special costumes are needed, unless Scrooge wants to look extra "Scrooge-ish." (Tattered, black clothing would be appropriate.)

The playing time is about five minutes per script.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

First Sunday in Advent

Hope

Second Sunday in Advent

Love

Third Sunday in Advent

Joy

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Peace

Christmas Morning

Lighting the Christ Candle

First Sunday in Advent

HOPE

CHARACTERS: BILL, KELLY.

SETTING: The Advent wreath with candles is set on the Communion table.

AT RISE: BILL walks to table, positions himself behind wreath. Starts searching his pockets for book of matches. Take some time here to build suspense. He finally finds the matches. As he's about to take one out, KELLY walks up. She has several wrapped gifts.

KELLY: Hi, Bill. (*Sets gifts down on table near wreath.*)

BILL: Oh, hi, Kelly.

KELLY: Are you all ready for Christmas?

BILL: I sure am. I've got my special Advent candle-lighting match right here and I'm ready to light the candle.

KELLY: Oh, well, that's not what I meant. I mean, are you all done with your Christmas shopping? Do you have all your presents wrapped?

BILL: Are you kidding? It's only the first Sunday of Advent. I haven't even *started* Christmas shopping!

KELLY: Well, you'd better get on it! Christmas will be here before you know it!

BILL: Are you all done with your shopping?

KELLY: (*With obvious pride*) Oh, I made all my gifts by hand. I had them done last month. I got them all wrapped today.

BILL: That's what I call planning ahead.

KELLY: Well, I get pretty excited around Christmas. In fact, I look forward to it all year long. I love the smell of Christmas trees, the sight of bright decorations, the sound of sleigh bells in the snow . . .

BILL: Sleigh bells? In San Bernardino . . . ? (*Or: This is 1990! No one rides in sleighs any more.*)

KELLY: Sure! Haven't you been down to the mall? They've

- 1 got sleigh bells all over the place, and piles of polyester
2 snow. It's beautiful!
- 3 **BILL:** (*Sarcastically*) Gee, I'd better get down there to see it
4 before it all melts. (*Snickers*)
- 5 **KELLY:** (*Suspiciously*) Are you making fun of me?
- 6 **BILL:** Well, look at yourself. Christmas is a month away and
7 you've already got your packages wrapped! Doesn't that
8 seem a little over anxious to you?
- 9 **KELLY:** I'm only following a biblical principle!
- 10 **BILL:** What biblical principle?
- 11 **KELLY:** Remember Anna and Simeon?
- 12 **BILL:** Anna and Simeon . . . Anna and Simeon . . . Oh, yeah,
13 I met them in church last week . . . that couple from
14 Colorado.
- 15 **KELLY:** You know who I mean! Anna was a prophetess at
16 the time Jesus was born, and Simeon was a high priest.
17 They were both godly people, and they were both
18 anxiously awaiting the birth of the Christ Child. So when
19 Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus into the temple to
20 dedicate him, Anna and Simeon both recognized him as
21 the one they had been waiting for.
- 22 **BILL:** I knew that . . .
- 23 **KELLY:** Simeon called the child, "a light for revelation to
24 the Gentiles and for glory to the people of Israel." He had
25 been waiting to see the Christ Child all his life, and
26 because of the hope and expectation in his heart, he
27 recognized him when he came.
- 28 **BILL:** "A light to the Gentiles," eh?
- 29 **KELLY:** That's what he called him.
- 30 **BILL:** That must be why we light candles at Christmas.
- 31 **KELLY:** That's right. Because Jesus is "the light of the world."
- 32 **BILL:** Did you know that each of the candles in the Advent
33 wreath have a different name?
- 34 **KELLY:** (*Sincerely*) They do?
- 35 **BILL:** We light a new candle each Sunday as we get closer to

1 **Christmas. Each candle represents a special aspect of**
2 **the season.**

3 **KELLY: I knew that . . .**

4 **BILL: The name of the candle we're lighting today is Hope.**
5 **Does that remind you of anything?**

6 **KELLY: *(Thinks)* Anna and Simeon!**

7 **BILL: That couple from Colorado?**

8 **KELLY: You know what I mean!**

9 **BILL: Let's light the candle of hope now and think about the**
10 **hope that Jesus brought into the world for all mankind.**
11 *(He lights the candle. Pause.)*

12 **KELLY: *(She gathers up her packages.)* And speaking of hope, I**
13 ***hope* you get your Christmas shopping done in time!**

14 **BILL: So do I. And I *hope* one of those presents you have**
15 **there is for me!**

16 **KELLY: *(As she leaves)* Keep hoping, Bill!**

17 *The End*

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Second Sunday in Advent

LOVE

CHARACTERS: JOYCE (Mother), KATHY (Daughter), KERRI (Daughter).

SETTING: JOYCE, KATHY, and KERRI come up front and gather around the Advent candle arrangement. KATHY has matches. KERRI has Bible and matches.

JOYCE: This is the second Sunday of Advent. Last week we lit the candle representing Hope. Kathy, do you want to relight it?

KATHY: OK. (*Lights candle of Hope.*)

JOYCE: And this Sunday we're going to light the candle representing the Love of God.

KERRI: (*Reading from Bible*) I John 4:16 says, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."

JOYCE: So the way we know about God is to "live in love."

KATHY: I know what love is. Mom, I remember the time . . . (*KATHY: Tell of a time when your mom's love came through to you by her actions.*) That showed me what love is.

KERRI: And I remember the time when . . . (*KERRI: Tell of a time when your mom did something special for you that showed love in a special way.*) That's just one of the times I knew you loved me.

JOYCE: Do you both remember when . . . (*JOYCE: Tell of some special memory you have of the girls showing you their love.*) I'll never forget it. But I'll especially remember the love I felt because of it.

KERRI: When we show love to each other, then God's love lives in us.

JOYCE: And as much as we love each other, God loves us even more. His love is a perfect love without the boundaries of time, space, or selfishness.

1 **KATHY:** He loved us so much that he sent his only son to die
 2 for us, so that all who believe in his name could become
 3 his children.

4 **KERRI:** (*Turning to KATHY*) All who believe in his name are
 5 his children?

6 **KATHY:** That's what the Bible says.

7 **KERRI:** (*Horried*) Does that mean what I think it means?

8 **KATHY:** I don't know . . . what do you think it means?

9 **KERRI:** That I have about a million more sisters?

10 **KATHY:** At least!

11 **KERRI:** (*Troubled*) Oh, boy! I hope they don't all want to
 12 borrow my Red Sea Beach Club tee shirt like you do and
 13 never give it back!

14 **KATHY:** What do you mean? I never borrowed your Red Sea
 15 Beach Club tee shirt. You're the one who took my favorite
 16 pink panther earrings and never returned them!

17 **KERRI:** I did not! I never borrow your stuff without asking.
 18 It's you who's always taking *my* things! What about my
 19 set of fluorescent Pentel felt marking pens? I haven't seen
 20 them around since the time you . . .

21 **KATHY:** Oh yeah?

22 **KERRI:** Yeah!

23 **KATHY:** Yeah?

24 **KERRI:** Yeah!

25 **JOYCE:** (*Breaking in*) Hold it! Hold it! I think we had better
 26 light the candle of Love before we forget what it means.
 27 Kerri, do you have a match?

28 **KERRI:** I think so. (*Gets one out of a pocket.*) Here's one.

29 **JOYCE:** Kathy, will you read Colossians 3:12-14 while Kerri
 30 lights the candle? Somehow it seems appropriate. (*Hands*
 31 *Bible from KERRI to KATHY.*)

32 **KATHY:** (*Reads while KERRI lights candle.*) "Therefore, as
 33 God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe
 34 yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
 35 gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive

7 KATHY: Those are my special souvenir matches from Walt
8 Disney World! I was saving those to keep forever and
9 never use!

11 **KATHY:** I'll give you back your Bible when you give me back
12 my matches.

14 KERRI: All right, here's your matches.

16 **KERRI:** I was just kidding about borrowing my Red Sea
17 Beach Club tee shirt.

19 KERRI: *(Pause, looks at KATHY.) No. (Exit)*

20 KATHY: (To audience) Oh well, maybe I'll get one for
21 Christmas. (Exits)

23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Third Sunday in Advent

JOY

CHARACTERS: TERRAN, APRIL, ERIKA, AARON, YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS, SCROOGE.

NOTE: Most churches make a special effort around Christmas to reach out in some way to help the needy in their area. This is a wonderful skit to use to inform the congregation about that special Christmas time effort. Fill in the details to describe what your church is doing and what the rest of the congregation can do to be a part of it.

In our church, the Youth Group targets needy families in our area by getting names from the local Social Services Department. They ask the parents what their children are hoping for for Christmas, then they collect toys, food, trees, and decorations for them and deliver the whole package to them the week before Christmas.

In this skit, TERRAN and SCROOGE are played by the adult couple who pastor our youth.

SETTING: Advent wreath, five candles, all unlit. All characters, except SCROOGE, come to front and gather behind the table.

TERRAN: This morning we will relight the candle of Hope. (A YOUTH GROUP MEMBER lights one of the candles.) And also the candle of Love. (Another YOUTH GROUP MEMBER lights a second candle.) This is the third Sunday of Advent and we are celebrating the attitude of Joy that God gives us in the Christmas season. And speaking of joy, would someone like to update us on how our "Christmas Giveaway" plans are shaping up?

APRIL: I would . . . (APRIL: Tell about your Christmas project.) Our plan is to make this Christmas special for some families who might otherwise go without a celebration this year. We contacted some people in the Social Services office and got the names of some families who were in

1 that sort of situation. We visited them in their homes and
2 asked the kids about what they might be wanting for
3 Christmas.

4 **ERIKA:** *(Continues with the story.)* Then last Sunday we set up
5 a tree in the foyer with the kids' names and gift
6 suggestions written on paper ornaments. People in the
7 congregation, and even some visitors, took home the
8 paper ornaments so that they could fulfill the children's
9 wishes for Christmas and buy them that special gift they
10 have been wishing for.

11 **AARON:** *(Continues the story.)* Some of us have gone out to
12 supermarkets and arranged for some of them to donate
13 food items so that we can deliver a Christmas dinner
14 with all the trimmings.

15 **PETER:** Don't forget the tree! *(PETER: Tell how you arranged
16 to get trees.)*

17 **TERRAN:** That's so great! And tell me, Youth Groupers, how
18 does all this effort make you feel? *(YOUTH GROUP
19 MEMBERS respond.)*

20 **SCROOGE:** *(Enters noisily from side while responses are going on.)*
21 What's all this noise? What's all this? Looks like an
22 unlawful assembly here! Break it up, I say. All of you kids
23 go on home or back to work where you belong!

24 **TERRAN:** Good morning, Mr. Scrooge. It's so good to see you.
25 How are you, today?

26 **SCROOGE:** How am I? Well, how do you think I am with all
27 this "Merry Christmas" humbug going around? Sick to
28 my stomach, that's how I am!

29 **ERIKA:** We're sorry to hear that, Mr. Scrooge. Maybe it was
30 something you ate . . .

31 **SCROOGE:** Of course it wasn't something I ate! I had a bowl
32 of watery oatmeal this morning, just like I always have.
33 Good for the cholesterol level, you know. Anyway, what are
34 all of you doing here? I hope you're not here to sing any
35 Christmas Carols! I've heard enough of that caterwauling

- 1 this month to last me a lifetime!
- 2 **TERRAN:** As a matter of fact, we were just about to light the
3 candle of Joy.
- 4 **SCROOGE:** Of what?
- 5 **TERRAN:** Joy! So we were telling everybody about our plans
6 for the Christmas Giveaway.
- 7 **SCROOGE:** (*In shock*) Giveaway? I should have known. You all
8 look just like the kind of mindless folks who would do
9 such a thing.
- 10 **APRIL:** But Mr. Scrooge, we give at Christmas time as an
11 expression of our Christian joy. We give because God
12 wants us to share his love with others. And we feel good
13 when we can help spread some joy around — in tangible
14 ways.
- 15 **SCROOGE:** Well, nobody ever gave me anything when I was a
16 boy! I had to work for every penny I got. You hear me?
17 I said I worked and sweated for every last penny. I never
18 had a Christmas tree and I never got a gift. That's what's
19 wrong with the world today — all that love and joy and
20 giving. Bah-humbug!
- 21 **TERRAN:** We feel that there isn't enough love and joy and
22 giving. That's why we want to do something special for
23 a few families at Christmas. That's why we have our
24 Christmas Giveaway.
- 25 **SCROOGE:** Bah! (*To audience*) You look like sensible,
26 levelheaded people. Surely you aren't involved in this
27 giving. (*Go to someone you know has participated in the*
28 *giveaway.*) You, sir. You look like a rational man. A hard-
29 working, intelligent business man-about-town. Tell me,
30 you haven't joined the ranks of these harebrained gift
31 givers, have you?
- 32 **MAN:** As a matter of fact, I have.
- 33 **SCROOGE:** (*Shocked*) What? Is everyone daft around here?
34 (*To audience*) Does no one here store up their riches? Is
35 everyone a spendthrift who has nothing better to do than

7 ERIKA: Hey, maybe we could buy him a present . . .

10 **TERRAN:** How about a meal? I don't think even Mr. Scrooge
11 should have to eat oatmeal all alone on Christmas.

15 **TERRAN:** That'll be a great surprise for him. I can hardly
16 wait to see his face! Let's light the candle of Joy now,
17 and remember that Jesus told us, "It is more blessed to
18 give than to receive." (*TERRAN lights the candle.*)

20 AARON: And we want to thank everyone who is helping us
21 out by participating in the Christmas Giveaway.

26 *The End*

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Fourth Sunday in Advent

PEACE

CHARACTERS: STEVE (Dad), SUE (Mom), RANDY, JOEL, CARA (Youngest).

NOTE: This skit features a family in the church. The father in this skit, STEVE, is involved with a children's ministry called "Royal Rangers." You can personalize this skit by using the name of your children's ministry. Choose someone to act out this scene who is involved in some way in leading in that ministry.

SETTING: The family gathers together behind the Advent wreath.

STEVE: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent. On the first Sunday we lit the candle of Hope. Randy, would you relight that candle now? (*RANDY lights first candle.*)

SUE: On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of Love. Joel, will you relight the candle representing God's love? (*JOEL lights the second candle.*)

STEVE: And last Sunday, we lit the candle of Joy.

CARA: Can I light that one?

STEVE: Well, you can help me light it. (*STEVE and CARA light third candle.*)

SUE: This Sunday we light the fourth candle: the candle of Peace. Peace is a special experience of the Christmas season. Right in the middle of what the rest of the world calls "the Christmas rush," we can experience God's peace in our lives.

JOEL: When we were shopping at Mervyn's the other day and Cara got lost, you felt a sense of peace, didn't you, Mom?

SUE: Actually, I wouldn't call it *peace* that I felt. That was "numbness." It's not exactly the same thing.

RANDY: This summer when Daddy and I went camping, we set up our tent by a beautiful, still lake. That's what I call peace.

1 JOEL: What I call peace is when I'm reading a good book up
2 on my bed with nobody to disturb me.

3 STEVE: Cara, can you tell us about a time when you feel real
4 peaceful? When do you feel real calm inside, like you
5 don't have to worry because God is very near to you?

6 CARA: When you sit on my bed and read me a story before I
7 go to sleep.

8 SUE: When I think of peace at this time of year, I always
9 think about the song "Silent Night," — "sleep in heavenly
10 peace" — and it reminds me of times when I've gone
11 quietly into the kids' room at night, after they were
12 asleep, just to pray for them and thank God for such a
13 special gift.

14 JOEL: What about you, Daddy? When do you feel the peace
15 of God? (*STEVE starts to think.*)

16 RANDY: Was it when we went camping?

17 STEVE: That was a peaceful time, but that's not what I'm
18 thinking of . . .

19 JOEL: Is it when you get a chance to read a really good
20 book?

21 STEVE: Well, I like to do that, but I'm thinking of a different
22 time . . .

23 CARA: Is it when you see me asleep?

24 STEVE: You look very peaceful when you're asleep, but I had
25 something else in mind.

26 ALL: (*Ad-lib*) Well, what is it? Tell us. (*Etc.*)

27 STEVE: I feel real peace . . . at a Royal Rangers meeting.

28 ALL: (*Unison, giving each other incredulous looks.*) At a Royal
29 Rangers Meeting?!

30 SUE: I don't get it. How can you feel peace at a Royal Rangers
31 meeting? I mean, I know you're really good with the kids,
32 but even the best teachers get nervous in a room full of
33 red paint, bottles of glue, sharp instruments combined
34 with a dozen or so very lively boys.

35 STEVE: That's it exactly. It's in those hard-to-feel-peace



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

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