

GLOWING WITH ADVENT

by Gail Gaymer Martin



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Glowing With Advent

Four readings for Advent candlelighting

by Gail Gaymer Martin

PRODUCTION NOTES

The four Sundays of Advent are celebrated in many congregations by the lighting of candles on an Advent wreath as part of the worship service. The candlelighting services in this booklet focus on the traditional symbols of each candle: *hope*, reminding us that Christ is our hope and salvation; *peace*, recalling Isaiah's prophesy that Christ is the "Prince of Peace"; *joy*, reflecting the angel's message, "I bring you good news of great joy"; and *love*, reminding us that "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The four lighting services include a pastor or lay assistant and a speaker for each service, two men and two women who represent a farmer, a fisherman, a bride, and a mother. These four characters draw an analogy between an everyday individual and biblical messages that tie into the season of Advent.

Use simple props and/or partial costuming to give the illusion of the four characters.

Farmer - Bib overalls, hoe, straw hat, plaid shirt
 Fisherman - Fisherman's hat, waders, rod and reel
 Bride - White veil, bouquet of flowers
 Mother - Baby blanket with baby-sized doll, a couple of toys
 or children's books, a basket of laundry

The lyrics to the Advent songs are original, written by the author and sung to the familiar carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" or any tune with the melody 87 87 88 77.

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Advent I We Wait with Hope

CAST: Pastor, Farmer

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 130:5-7

PASTOR: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

ALL: And in his word I put my hope.

PASTOR: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen
wait for the morning,

ALL: More than watchmen wait for the morning.

PASTOR: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

ALL: For with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is
full redemption.

FARMER: I am a farmer. Each year I work long hours
cultivating my fields and planting my seeds and
seedlings, and then I watch the sky for clouds promising
rain and for days of pure sunshine. I trust that God will
provide what is needed to make my plants grow,
providing my family and me with an abundant crop. My
hope is not an empty dream, but one of expectation,
knowing that God will provide.

Every day we can trust in the Lord for more than
sunshine and rain to nourish the farmer's seeds. We trust
in the Lord for all of our needs and for God's promise of
salvation. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). In God,
our hope is sure.

As we begin our vigil, waiting for the Babe born in
Bethlehem, we light the first Advent candle, the candle of
HOPE, trusting in the Lord's promise that in Christ we
have salvation and eternal life. *(He steps forward and lights
the first Advent candle while the congregation sings "The
Candle of Hope.")*

SONG: "The Candle of Hope"

(Melody: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" [Tune: 87 87 88 77])

Lord, we thank you and we praise you

For your gift to us divine.

As we celebrate this Advent

Fill our hearts with hope sublime.

Candles glowing, spirits growing,

As the Christ child comes to earth.

We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.

LIGHTING RESPONSE AND PRAYER: Romans 15:13

PASTOR: The candle of hope prepares us for Christ's coming.

ALL: Our hearts glow with the light of hope.

PASTOR: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace

as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We wait with hope. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Advent II We Wait in Peace

CAST: Pastor, Fisherman

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 9:6

PASTOR: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

ALL: And the government will be on his shoulders.

PASTOR: And he will be called

ALL: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

FISHERMAN: I am a fisherman. I earn my living by sailing
out each morning on a small fishing boat and dropping
nets into the ocean. Though most days the seas are calm
and peaceful, I have lived through times of fear when
furious storms have lashed upon us without warning,
lifting our small vessel on towering waves and dashing it
against the raging water below. We have been swamped
by waves roaring above our heads, with our only hope a
loving God who silences the storm and calms our fears.

And God does not stop with raging storms.
Throughout our lives he calms our fears, silences our
sorrows and provides us peace beyond all human
understanding through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Waiting for the Babe born in Bethlehem, we light the
second Advent candle, the candle of PEACE, trusting in
Jesus' promise, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give
you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let
your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John
14:27). *(He steps forward and lights the second Advent candle
while the congregation sings "The Candle of Peace.")*

SONG: "The Candle of Peace"

(Melody: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" [Tune: 87 87 88 77])

1 Lord, we thank you and we praise you
2 For your gift to us divine.
3 As we celebrate this Advent
4 Fill our hearts with peace sublime.
5 Candles glowing, spirits growing,
6 As the Christ child comes to earth.
7 We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.
8

9 *LIGHTING RESPONSE AND PRAYER: Romans 15:13*

10

11 PASTOR: The candle of peace prepares us for Christ's
12 coming.

13 ALL: Our hearts glow with the light of peace.

14 PASTOR: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
15 as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope
16 by the power of the Holy Spirit.

17 ALL: We wait in peace. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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Advent III We Wait with Joy

CAST: Pastor, Bride

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 2:10-11; Psalm 30:11-12

PASTOR: The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.

ALL: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

PASTOR: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

ALL: He is Christ the Lord.”

PASTOR: You turned my wailing to dancing;

ALL: You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

PASTOR: That my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

ALL: O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

BRIDE: I am a bride. I have waited and planned for this day, when I will be joined in marriage to the man whom God has given me to love. Weddings are planned with great detail and much effort, so they are beautiful. When the organ swells, I will take the first step down the aisle with great joy to stand before the altar with my bridegroom. Together we will promise our love and faithfulness.

God reminds us that we, the brides of Christ, belong to the Bridegroom. Jesus waits and listens, then fills with joy when he hears our voice. He is ours and we are his. Like an earthly wedding, we experience joy in our commitment.

As we wait for the Babe born in Bethlehem, we light the third Advent candle, the candle of JOY, like a bridegroom who waits for his bride. “There will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, saying, “Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever” (Jeremiah 33:10b-11). *(She steps forward and lights the third*

1 *Advent candle while the congregation sings “The Candle of*
 2 *Joy.”)*

3

4 **SONG: “The Candle of Joy”**

5 (Melody: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” [Tune: 87 87 88 77])

6 **Lord, we thank you and we praise you**

7 **For your gift to us divine.**

8 **As we celebrate this Advent**

9 **Fill our hearts with joy sublime.**

10 **Candles glowing, spirits growing,**

11 **As the Christ child comes to earth.**

12 **We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.**

13

14 **LIGHTING RESPONSE AND PRAYER: Romans 15:13**

15

16 **PASTOR: The candle of joy prepares us for Christ’s coming.**

17 **ALL: Our hearts glow with the light of joy.**

18 **PASTOR: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace**

19 **as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope**

20 **by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

21 **ALL: We wait with joy. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

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