

COME AND ADORE HIM

by Gary Shank



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Come and Adore Him

A Christmas program with
audience participation

by Gary Shank

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR

MARY

JOSEPH

SHEPHERD BOY

SHEPHERD FATHER

WISE MAN #1 (*Gold*)

WISE MAN #2 (*Frankincense*)

WISE MAN #3 (*Myrrh*)

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Come and Adore Him is a dramatic presentation for Christmas and the Advent Season. Combining musical selections with a series of short monologs written from the point of view of those who surrounded the Christ child, it is intended to create a living Nativity scene which draws in spectators and encourages them to get involved in the service.

Requiring a small cast, simple staging, and minimal props *Come and Adore Him* is designed to be easy to produce regardless of church size, budget or depth of dramatic talent. Its real purpose is not to present a dramatic event, but to lead your congregation to become active participants in worship of Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh: Immanuel, God with us.

The only set piece required is a manger, which will be central to the scene being created. The stage should be set for each character to enter from Off-stage, deliver his or her monolog at a microphone, then join the rest of the cast as they assemble around the manger in a living Nativity scene. The Narrator should stand at a lectern positioned off to the side; visible by all, yet away from the central focus.

Props might include walking sticks or staffs for the Shepherds and gifts for the Wise Men to add realism.

The characters should be dressed in biblical costumes typical of the period. All should wear simple long-sleeved robes and sandals with a cloth covering over their heads. The head covering should hang loosely for women and should be secured or tied with a cord on the men. More information on biblical garb may be found in *Manners and Customs of Bible Lands* by Fred H. Wight, published by Moody Press, Chicago.

For the portion of the service where congregants write down their gift to Jesus, pencils and slips of paper may be stocked in the pews, or the supplies may be handed to each person upon entering the sanctuary.

In order to encourage involvement, songs should involve the entire congregation when possible. Selections are suggested and, in some cases, identified by their Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) number, for the convenience of churches utilizing this service. Please feel free to substitute according to your preferences.

Service time is approximately 20-25 minutes.

Were You There? by Gary Shank, a companion program for Lent or Easter, is also available through Contemporary Drama Service.

1 (*The NARRATOR is in place behind the lectern.*)

2 **NARRATOR:** In the beginning was the Word,
 3 and the Word was *with* God,
 4 and the Word *was* God.
 5 He was with God in the beginning (John 1:1-2).

6
 7 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling
 8 among us (John 1:14a).

9
 10 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that
 11 a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.
 12 And everyone went to his own town to register.

13 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth
 14 in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David,
 15 because he belonged to the house and line of David. He
 16 went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to
 17 be married to him and was expecting a child.

18 While they were there, the time came for the baby to
 19 be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She
 20 wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger,
 21 because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke
 22 2:1, 3–7). (*MARY and JOSEPH enter from Off-stage.*
 23 *JOSEPH holds back while MARY steps to the microphone*
 24 *and speaks.*)

25 **MARY:** (*In awe*) A baby. The Son of God.

26 Over and over, all through the night, I traced his
 27 perfect features and marveled at the miracle I held in
 28 my arms.

29 The prophets of old spoke of this day when they
 30 said: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth
 31 to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ — which
 32 means, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23).

33 But who knew God would choose *me*? I held in my
 34 arms “*Immanuel* — God with us.”

35 No longer is God “the *unseen* God” somewhere ...

1 *(Gesturing)* out there. No longer is he merely *for* us —
 2 fighting our battles, leading our people ... God is *among*
 3 us. One of us. Right here. God is *with* us! *(MARY leaves*
 4 *the microphone and takes a seat next to the manger while*
 5 *JOSEPH steps to the microphone.)*

6 **JOSEPH:** Truth is, there was a time when I thought Mary
 7 had betrayed me. Yet even in my distress, I planned to
 8 quietly break our engagement and put her away
 9 privately. I wanted no hurt nor harm to come to Mary.

10 Love did that. Love is strange and powerful.

11 *(Extends arms, with hands cupped together)* The first
 12 time I held the child, his tiny hands clung to my finger
 13 as he squinted at me in the flickering lamplight. It was
 14 then I really began to know love. Love stronger than I
 15 ever imagined.

16 Hard to believe ... The Son of God — Creator of all
 17 that is ... Hands that formed mountains and placed the
 18 stars in space ... lay helpless in mine.

19 A baby. Son of God; Son of Man *(Sweeping arm to*
 20 *indicate stable)* here among animals ... the lowly ...
 21 common ... outcasts. *(Pause)* Love did that. *(JOSEPH*
 22 *leaves microphone position and takes his place, standing next*
 23 *to MARY.)*

24

25 **SONG:** “Silent Night,” *(verse 1)*

26

27 **NARRATOR:** And there were shepherds living out in the
 28 fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
 29 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory
 30 of the Lord shone around them, and they were
 31 terrified.

32 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring
 33 you good news of great joy that will be for all the
 34 people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been
 35 born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

1 “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby
2 wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

3 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host
4 appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
5 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to
6 [those] on whom his favor rests.”

7 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
8 the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to
9 Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which
10 the Lord has told us about” (Luke 2:8-15). (*SHEPHERD*
11 *FATHER and SHEPHERD BOY enter. SHEPHERD BOY*
12 *hurries ahead.*)

13 **SHEPHERD BOY:** (*Excitedly*) Papa! Papa, look! It’s a baby!
14 Just like the angel said! (*Pause*) What is a Savior, Papa?
15 Why is he here in a stable? Will he be a shepherd? A
16 king? Will he be my friend? (*SHEPHERD BOY leaves*
17 *microphone and takes a place next to the manger.*)

18 **SHEPHERD FATHER:** Son of David. Promised Messiah ...
19 Anointed One. The one who will deliver us ... (*Perplexed*)
20 a baby? (*Pause*) Why, he looks much like any other child.
21 Believe me, as the oldest of nine — and now with six of
22 my own — I’ve seen my share of babies! A precious gift
23 from God, every one of ’em. Still ... I may be a simple
24 shepherd, but I know this one is different.

25 I’ve never before felt the need to kneel before a baby.
26 Surely he is Lord of all. (*SHEPHERD FATHER leaves*
27 *microphone and kneels next to the manger.*)

28
29 **SONG:** “Silent Night,” (*verse 2*)

30
31 **NARRATOR:** Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and
32 asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the
33 Jews? We saw his star ... and have come to worship
34 him” (Matthew 2:1b-2)

35 And the star they had seen in the east went ahead of

1 them until it stopped over the place where the child
2 was. ... On coming to the house, they saw the child with
3 his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped
4 him (Matthew 2:9b, 11a). (*WISE MEN enter as a group.*)

5 **WISE MAN #1:** We have seen his star. Surely he is King
6 above all kings! For what mere man did the stars ever
7 announce his birth?

8 (*Knowingly*) I tell you, this King is not like any other
9 — for even the heavens do his bidding and bow before
10 him. (*WISE MAN #1 leaves the microphone and kneels by*
11 *the manger.*)

12 **WISE MAN #2:** At last — our long-awaited King! Come to
13 lead his people out of bondage and oppression. To
14 bring them back from all lands and nations and gather
15 them to himself. The Hope of the Ages, he is the Light
16 in darkness, and he reigns over a kingdom that will
17 endure *forever!* (*WISE MAN #2 leaves microphone and*
18 *kneels by the manger.*)

19 **WISE MAN #3:** I myself am not a Jew, and yet this child,
20 born “King of the Jews,” draws me to himself. Not by
21 force. Not to conquer.

22 Born to servants and poverty rather than
23 privilege In lowliness and humility, as though he
24 himself has come to serve

25 Before such a King I gladly bow. (*WISE MAN #3*
26 *leaves microphone and kneels by the manger.*)

27
28 **SONG:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (*chorus only*)

29 O come, let us adore him,
30 O come, let us adore him,
31 O come, let us adore him,
32 Christ the Lord.

33
34 **NARRATOR:** The true light that gives light to every man
35 [came] into the world.

1 He was in the world, and though the world was
2 made [by] him, the world did not recognize him.

3 He came to that which was his own, but his own did
4 not receive him.

5 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in
6 his name, he gave the right to become children of
7 God—children born not of natural descent, nor of
8 human decision or a husband's will, but born of God
9 (John 1: 9-13). Just as he was on that night so long ago.

10 You and I were not privileged to be at his “Advent,”
11 his arrival, two-thousand-plus years ago. Tonight, we’ve
12 tried in a small way to recreate a part of that scene and
13 what might have been with some who were.

14 You may have noticed that our manger is empty. His
15 arrival wasn’t the whole story. It’s one act in the
16 drama: God’s redemption of humanity. The birth in the
17 stable is an important part, worthy of celebration ... but
18 Jesus didn’t stay there.

19 “[Though he was] in very nature God, [he] did not
20 consider equality with God (his ‘god-ness’) something to
21 be grasped (or clung to), but made himself nothing,
22 taking the very nature of a servant ...

23 And being found in appearance as a man, he
24 humbled himself and became obedient to death — even
25 death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8). But he didn’t stay
26 on the cross.

27 His *lifeless* body, battered and broken, was laid in a
28 borrowed tomb ... *but he didn’t stay there either!*

29 On the third day he rose to life again, revealed
30 himself to hundreds of followers, then ascended into
31 heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father where he
32 lives to make “intercession”—to bridge the gap
33 between sinful man and sinless God, between human
34 flesh, weakness and failure, and a holy God with a
35 perfect standard.



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