

ADVENT ANGELS

by William Dohle



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Advent Angels

A candlelighting collection for children

by William Dohle

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PRODUCTION NOTES

With a large group of later-elementary students to choose from at our parish, I wrote these scripts from the perspective of younger angels preparing for their various tasks in the Advent season. I hope these scripts will help others looking for a way to incorporate child performers and angels into Advent celebrations.

For the first Sunday of Advent, we are introduced to Gabby and Urie. Gabby is the older, more experienced angel, while Urie is her friend. They introduce the first candle of the season, the candle of Hope, with their preparations to meet Zachariah and deliver the news of John the Baptist's birth. The following Sunday we are introduced to another angel, Mikey, and are reminded of what has transpired so far. These angels are sent to call upon Mary and tell her of Jesus' birth and thus light the candle of Faith. The candle of Love follows, with the story of Joseph and the addition of another angel, Christy, to the mix. The final Sunday of Advent wraps up with the candle of Joy, the candle lit before the now-five angels declare the joy of the Christ child to the shepherds. Finally, I have included a script to be performed on either Christmas Day or Christmas Eve, with the Christ candle already lit and the angels sent to watch over the Magi on their journey to visit the Christ child.

The setting for all the scripts is outside the pearly gates of heaven. No special set pieces are needed with the exception of the Advent wreath and matches or a lighter.

All the angels may wear white choir or confirmation robes.

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Hope ... of a Savior

First Sunday of Advent

CHARACTERS:

GABBY — A younger version of the angel known as Gabriel.

URIE — Another young version of a famous angel, Uriel.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Based on Luke 1:5-25, where Gabriel visits Zachariah.

(URIE and GABBY enter together.)

URIE: So Gabby, tell me why we're here again.

GABBY: I told you, Urie ... we're off to proclaim some hope.

URIE: Hope? What's hope?

GABBY: You know what hope is! *(URIE looks clueless.)* It's the expectation of good things to come.

URIE: Huh?

GABBY: Like, "I hope the train comes on time," or "I hope I get this or that," or "I hope God answers my prayer."

URIE: Not very strong then, huh? This hope thing.

GABBY: You might be surprised. Some say it's one of the strongest things known to man.

URIE: So which hope are we going to proclaim then? The train? Are we gonna make his train arrive on time?

GABBY: Urie, why would we take time out of our busy schedule to make a train arrive on time? Besides, there are no trains where we're going!

URIE: So why are we going to proclaim this hope? Can't we just answer his prayer from here and let him be?

GABBY: Because the greatest hope of all is coming to the earth, and we gotta go and get ready for it. Besides, I don't think this father would understand how important his child is unless we were there.

URIE: How important is the child?

- 1 GABBY: He's the one who's to prepare the way.
2 URIE: The way? The way for whom?
3 GABBY: The way for the one who's coming!
4 URIE: Who's coming again?
5 GABBY: Jesus, Urie. Jesus is coming!
6 URIE: He's coming? I didn't know it was that time already!
7 GABBY: That's why we gotta go! We've got a couple of visits
8 to make before we get to the main event.
9 URIE: Who are we visiting again?
10 GABBY: An old woman and man, Urie! They're about to hear
11 some news they'll never expect. The woman has been
12 praying for children for years, and today she's gonna get
13 her wish.
14 URIE: So ... where do we start? With her?
15 GABBY: No, that prayer's been answered already. We just
16 have to tell the father.
17 URIE: Oh, that should be easy.
18 GABBY: Don't be too sure. We've got to tell him his hope is
19 fulfilled. Humans aren't too keen on hearing such things.
20 URIE: So how will we get through?
21 GABBY: I've got my ways. Sometimes you speak best when
22 you can't speak at all. Zachariah will believe and all will
23 know how important this child truly is.
24 URIE: Then let's get started!
25 GABBY: First, why don't you light that candle there? The
26 Hope candle. It'll let God know we've completed our first
27 task.
28 URIE: As you wish, Gabby. (*Lights first Advent candle.*) Gabby?
29 GABBY: Yes, Urie?
30 URIE: Are we gonna be doing more things together?
31 GABBY: I'm sure we are, Urie. God has a lot messages to send
32 humanity in the next few weeks. Now, let's go and send
33 this message. We don't wanna be late. (*URIE and GABBY*
34 *both exit.*)
35

Faith ... of a Young Mother

Second Sunday of Advent

CHARACTERS:

URIE — A younger version of Uriel.

GABBY — A young Gabriel.

MIKEY — A young Michael and a friend of URIE.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Luke 1:26-38, where the angel visits Mary.

(The first Advent candle of Hope is already lit. URIE and MIKEY are standing outside the gates, talking.)

URIE: And that's how it happened. *(Excitement builds as he speaks.)* Gabby said his son would be born, the priest doubted it, and Gabby struck him mute!

MIKEY: That's nuts! Why would she do that?

URIE: Maybe she thought he'd speak better if he couldn't speak at all.

MIKEY: That doesn't make sense.

URIE: And neither does that hope thing, either. Personally, I'll be glad when we're declaring something a little more ... concrete! *(GABBY enters.)*

URIE: Gabby! You're here!

GABBY: Urie! You brought a friend.

URIE: This is Mikey. He wanted to see what's going on here.

GABBY: Mikey? Of course! Mikey! How are you, Mikey?

MIKEY: Just fine, Gabby!

GABBY: So Mikey, did Urie tell you what this candle here is for? *(Pointing to first candle now burning.)*

MIKEY: He hadn't gotten that far yet.

GABBY: This candle is the candle of hope. It reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus and the promise of salvation. It reminds us of the message that we've been sent to proclaim.

- 1 MIKEY: Huh ... That's interesting. But tell me, how did it
 2 feel to strike that priest mute like that? Driving away
 3 doubt with just the touch of your hand. Boy, if I had
 4 that kind of power, I would —
- 5 GABBY: (*Interrupts.*) We've got no time to talk. We've got to
 6 get going!
- 7 URIE: So ... what's today, Gabby? Something strong?
 8 Something big? Are we gonna proclaim the strength of
 9 the Lord?
- 10 GABBY: No, Urie. Today we're carrying a message of faith.
- 11 URIE: Faith? What's faith?
- 12 GABBY: Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain
 13 of what we do not see (*Hebrews 11:1*).
- 14 URIE: But what are we being sure and certain of?
- 15 GABBY: Look, I don't have time for questions. We need to
 16 get a move on. We're running a bit late!
- 17 MIKEY: Just one question.
- 18 GABBY: (*Annoyed*) Fine. What is it?
- 19 MIKEY: What's faith got to do with this message?
- 20 URIE: Yeah!
- 21 GABBY: Urie! Mikey! It has *everything* to do with it. It's the
 22 whole reason why we're here in the first place. We're
 23 going to proclaim the message that inspires the faith.
- 24 MIKEY: And who are we proclaiming this to? A king? Or ...
 25 I know! The Emperor? In China?
- 26 GABBY: No, Mikey. Our message will go to a young woman.
- 27 URIE: A woman? Shouldn't we be sending this to someone
 28 who's more important? I mean, women weren't all that
 29 important back then, you know.
- 30 GABBY: Actually, she's not really a woman yet. She's just a
 31 young girl, barely twelve or thirteen years old. And
 32 she's very, very important.
- 33 URIE: And why are we going there?
- 34 GABBY: She's getting the message that she's pregnant.
- 35 MIKEY: Pregnant?

- 1 GABBY: With Jesus.
2 URIE: Oh. So she's gonna be the mother of our Lord? She
3 must be pretty rich and famous.
4 GABBY: Actually, she lives in a shack in the town of
5 Nazareth.
6 URIE: (*Sarcastically*) This is getting better and better.
7 MIKEY: Gabby? Urie? Count me out of this one. I think I
8 have better things to do.
9 GABBY: Better than seeing the greatest faith in the world?
10 MIKEY: What?
11 GABBY: This woman, Mary, might be poor and young, but
12 she's been chosen to be the mother of Jesus!
13 URIE: Really?
14 GABBY: And her faith exceeds even that of the priest. She
15 won't challenge me, I'm sure of it. She'll accept her
16 future with gladness ... even if that future is a little
17 vague.
18 MIKEY: You're kidding! Why would she do that?
19 GABBY: Faith.
20 URIE: Faith?
21 MIKEY: This I've gotta see!
22 GABBY: Before we go, we need to light the next candle.
23 That'll tell God that we're onto the next task and will
24 remind us about something too.
25 MIKEY: What's that?
26 URIE: (*Excitedly*) I know, I know — faith!
27 GABBY: That's right, faith! Come on, we mustn't be late! (*All*
28 *three exit.*)
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Love ... of a Man for a Woman

Third Sunday of Advent

CHARACTERS:

GABBY — A younger version of Gabriel, though the oldest of the group.

URIE — Gabby's first assistant, a younger version of Uriel.

MIKEY — Young version of the angel Michael.

ANGIE — New recruit to the group.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Based on Matthew 1:18-25, where the angel visits Joseph.

(The first and second candles, Hope and Faith, are lit on the Advent wreath. ANGIE stands Center Stage as URIE and MIKEY rush in to talk to her.)

URIE: You'll never believe this, Angie! You'll never believe what we did!

MIKEY: Yeah, I hardly believe it now myself!

ANGIE: What are you talking about? Where have you guys been?

MIKEY: We've been out with Gabby!

URIE: Oh Angie, you won't believe what happened!

ANGIE: Calm down! What's going on?

URIE: It all began when Gabby invited me to see her message of hope to this guy —

MIKEY: This priest!

URIE: Named Zachariah!

MIKEY: Yeah, Zack!

URIE: And then when he wouldn't listen to the hope she had, she struck him mute!

MIKEY: *(Mimes striking with his hand.)* Like that!

URIE: *(Glaring at MIKEY)* Only Mikey wasn't there ...

MIKEY: Not yet ... but I was there this last time.

URIE: Oh, Angie, you won't believe what happened next!

- 1 MIKEY: Gabby told this little girl she's gonna be the mother
2 of Jesus!
- 3 URIE: And you won't believe what she said!
- 4 MIKEY: No, you won't! She just looked at Gabby and said,
5 "May it be to me as you have said" (*Luke 1:38*).
- 6 URIE: Yeah ... why did she say that?
- 7 MIKEY: Maybe that was the faith Gabby told us about.
- 8 URIE: Maybe ...
- 9 ANGIE: So what are we doing now?
- 10 URIE: I don't know. Have you seen Gabby? (*GABBY enters.*)
- 11 GABBY: Here I am!
- 12 URIE: Gabby!
- 13 MIKEY: So where are we going today?
- 14 GABBY: We're going to confirm some love.
- 15 MIKEY: Love? What's love got to do with it?
- 16 GABBY: Oh, you'll be surprised. Love can be awfully
17 powerful!
- 18 ANGIE: Whose love are we proclaiming, then? God's love?
- 19 GABBY: In a sense, though the love we'll see won't be
20 directly from God.
- 21 URIE: I don't understand.
- 22 GABBY: We're going to talk to Mary's husband now.
- 23 MIKEY: Her husband? I didn't know she was married.
- 24 GABBY: She will be.
- 25 MIKEY: Then why do we have to visit him?
- 26 GABBY: Because we need to remind him how much he loves
27 her. We need to tell him the baby being born is from
28 God.
- 29 URIE: Why would that be important?
- 30 GABBY: Let's just say he wouldn't be too happy if it were
31 another man's baby. We're gonna tell him it's from God
32 so he can go ahead and marry her.
- 33 ANGIE: And then?
- 34 GABBY: And then his love will do the rest. His love will help
35 him protect Mary and Jesus when they need him most.

1 **URIE:** So once again we're going to proclaim something
2 great to a nobody?
3 **GABBY:** There are no nobodies to God, Urie.
4 **URIE:** You know what I mean.
5 **GABBY:** So you don't wanna go?
6 **URIE:** I didn't say that!
7 **MIKEY:** I wanna come too!
8 **ANGIE:** Me too! I wouldn't miss this for the world.
9 **GABBY:** *(Sighs.)* OK. Angie, light that third candle there.
10 *(ANGIE lights candle. URIE and MIKEY are already*
11 *halfway down the aisle.)*
12 **ANGIE:** What does it represent?
13 **GABBY:** It's the candle of Love. It'll remind us of God's love
14 for us and how we use that love for others.
15 **URIE:** Come on, guys! We don't have all night.
16 **GABBY:** Ah, Urie. You're an angel after my own heart!
17 *(URIE and MIKEY rush out via the center aisle with GABBY*
18 *and ANGIE close behind.)*
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Joy ... of the Heavenly Host

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHARACTERS:

GABBY — A young version of Gabriel and the leader of the group.

URIE — A young version of Uriel.

MIKEY — A young version of Michael and friend of URIE's.

ANGIE — A friend and part of the group.

CHRISTY — New recruit to the group who is checking out what is going on.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Based on Luke 2, the angels' message to the shepherds.

(Three Advent candles are lit — Hope, Faith, and Love. URIE, MIKEY, and ANGIE are talking very animatedly to CHRISTY, who has a big smile on her face.)

ANGIE: And you won't believe what she did, either!

MIKEY: Yeah, Gabby just told him, "The child within her is the Lord's," and lo and behold, he accepted it!

CHRISTY: Just like that?!

URIE: Yeah, just like that. I couldn't believe it. Too bad Zachariah couldn't accept it as easily.

MIKEY: I know. He had to lose his speech in order to believe!

URIE: How would you know? You weren't there!

MIKEY: That's what you told me!

ANGIE: I wish I could've seen that. Gabby's performance with Joseph was truly amazing.

MIKEY: Yeah, and to think that it all had to do with love!

ANGIE: He must really love her!

URIE: Yeah! Go figure! *(GABBY enters.)*

ANGIE: Gabby!

URIE: We were just telling Christy here of all the fun we've had.

- 1 CHRISTY: I hope you don't mind me hanging around here.
2 It all sounds so exciting!
- 3 GABBY: I don't mind, Christy. Everyone's welcome.
- 4 MIKEY: So ... where are we going next?
- 5 ANGIE: Yeah, Gabby. What does God have you doing now?
- 6 GABBY: Actually, God has a task for all of us.
- 7 MIKEY: All of us?
- 8 CHRISTY: Me too?
- 9 GABBY: Yeah, you too.
- 10 MIKEY: What are we gonna do? Go smite a few folks with
11 a plague or unleash the wrath of the Almighty?
- 12 GABBY: Mikey, do you really think God would have us do
13 that now?
- 14 MIKEY: Uh, well ...
- 15 URIE: Gabby, what can we do about anything?
- 16 GABBY: You'll be surprised. You can do a lot. We've all been
17 chosen to announce the birth of Jesus to the world!
18 We're gonna make up the heavenly chorus and sing
19 songs of joy.
- 20 MIKEY: Oh, wow! Cool!
- 21 ANGIE: I can't believe it!
- 22 URIE: A chorus? Is that like a concert? I've always wanted
23 to sing to a couple of kings about the coming Messiah.
24 That would be great!
- 25 GABBY: Well ... actually, we're not going to be singing to
26 kings.
- 27 MIKEY: A queen then?
- 28 GABBY: Nope.
- 29 ANGIE: A prince?
- 30 GABBY: Guess again.
- 31 URIE: Who would we be called to sing to then?
- 32 GABBY: Actually, God's sending us to a group of shepherds.
- 33 URIE, ANGIE, MIKEY, and CHRISTY: *(Together)* Shepherds?!
- 34 URIE: But they're dirty!
- 35 MIKEY: And they stink!

- 1 ANGIE: And they hang out with cows!
2 GABBY: Uh, Angie, those are cowboys.
3 CHRISTY: Yeah, shepherds hang out with sheep!
4 ANGIE: Ewww, gross!
5 MIKEY: And what are we supposed to do to them?
6 GABBY: Tell them where Jesus is being born.
7 URIE: Is that it?
8 GABBY: Oh, yeah. And sing.
9 URIE, ANGIE, MIKEY, and CHRISTY: *(Together)* Sing?!
10 GABBY: You just said you were looking forward to singing.
11 MIKEY: But, Gabby, what would we be singing to
12 shepherds? Sheep lullabies?
13 GABBY: Actually, we have a rather catchy tune to rehearse.
14 Something about peace on earth and goodwill to all.
15 Sounds joyful, huh?
16 MIKEY: I don't sing.
17 GABBY: But you just said you were looking forward to it.
18 MIKEY: Scratch that. I don't sing to no shepherds!
19 URIE: Yeah. You can't make us, you know.
20 GABBY: Just a moment ago you were jumping at the
21 chance to sing God's praises. Now that you hear you're
22 singing to shepherds you get all uptight?
23 MIKEY: But, Gabby, they're shepherds. Shepherds!
24 GABBY: And they have as much of a right to hear God's
25 praises as do kings. They're all alike in God's eyes.
26 URIE: So who's God sending to this event? Just us?
27 GABBY: Actually, God's clearing out heaven for the event.
28 Something about the greatest story ever told. He wants
29 us all there.
30 MIKEY: Too bad we aren't performing for kings.
31 URIE: Or queens.
32 GABBY: But just think about it — these shepherds will go
33 tell other shepherds, and before long ...
34 URIE: *(Interrupts.)* Jesus will be surrounded by sheep?!
35 GABBY: Hardly. The joy of Christ will spread to everyone!

1 That's what this event is all about — joy! Our joy at his
2 birth, and the joy that he brings to the world!

3 **MIKEY:** I don't know about this ... (*URIE, MIKEY, CHRISTY,*
4 *and ANGIE all turn their backs to GABBY, lost in thought.*)

5 **GABBY:** Come on, guys! The joy of Christ's birth isn't just
6 for the privileged, it's for everyone. No matter where
7 they are, what they do, who they hang around with, or
8 how they smell — you know? (*Pause*) Guys?

9 **CHRISTY:** (*After a moment of silence*) Gabby?

10 **GABBY:** Yeah, Christy?

11 **CHRISTY:** I'd love to be a part of this heavenly chorus. It'll
12 be fun to see the looks on their faces.

13 **ANGIE:** Yeah, me too.

14 **MIKEY:** Me too ...

15 **GABBY:** Urie?

16 **URIE:** What?

17 **GABBY:** I'd hate for you to miss this final act.

18 **URIE:** (*Sighs.*) I guess. After all, it's probably better than I
19 think, huh?

20 **GABBY:** Guaranteed. So, are we all in? (*Everyone nods.*)

21 Good! Christy, it's your turn. Light the last candle in
22 the circle to remind us of the joy of Christmas.
23 (*CHRISTY lights last Advent candle.*)

24 **URIE:** Gabby, what about the one in the center?

25 **GABBY:** We'll light that one when the baby's actually born.

26 **URIE:** Oh, I can't wait! Maybe after that we can visit some
27 kids, huh?

28 **GABBY:** We'll see ... Come on, guys! We don't wanna be late!
29 (*All exit.*)

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