

“Come to the Manger: Hope for Advent”

by
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What If home is where the heart is, then our true home is with the heart of God, for He sent His Son to dwell with us and make our home with us. In a world where so many long for a safe and peaceful home life, this reading for the first week of Advent reminds us of our true home and our true hope.

Themes: Christmas, Advent, Hope, Home, Reader’s Theatre

Who Reader 1
Reader 2

When Present

Wear (Props) Unless you have the script memorized, Readers should have a black binder to read from.

Why John 14:23-34 and Isaiah 7:14

How If you read this from the script, be familiar enough with your lines so that your head isn’t down in the script the entire time. Embrace the awe and mystery of the scripture.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Readers enter and address the audience.

Reader 1: Home is where the heart is,

Reader 2: Or so the saying goes.

Reader 1: Home is a place of safety and rest.

Reader 2: Home is a place for peace.

Reader 1: A space where we can be our truest selves.

Reader 2: We renovate old homes to make them new.

Reader 1: We build dream homes so we can live in comfort and at ease.

Reader 2: We search cities and neighborhoods to find a place to rent or buy,

Reader 1: We search cities and neighborhoods for a safe place to live with the people that we love.

Reader 2: Home is where the heart is,

Reader 1: And today, on the first day of Advent, we remember that God came to dwell among us.

Reader 2: To make a home with us.

Reader 1: And this gives us great reason to hope.

Reader 2: Home is where *God's heart* is

Reader 1: And God's heart is always with us.

Reader 2: The story of this hope is thousands of years old.

Reader 1: We live in a day where that hope is reality.

Reader 2: However, the home is not a place of hope, safety, or peace for so many.

Reader 1: Ever since God walked with Adam and Eve in garden in the cool of the day to fellowship

Reader 2: The dream home that God designed for us has been attacked.

Reader 1: And it was our sin and disobedience that seemed to dash all the hopes of home forever.

Reader 2: Sin brought enmity, strife and discord

Reader 1: Between spouses and siblings

Reader 2: Families and neighbours

Reader 1: Ever since man's first disobedience.

Reader 2: We wrecked the home that God gave

Reader 1: But God sent his son Jesus into the world to salvage our hope and to make a home again for all who believe.

Reader 2: As Jesus lived his life on earth

Reader 1: As he revealed the Father

Reader 2: And as he went to the cross to defeat sin and death

Reader 1: He restored the hope of humanity.

Reader 2: Jesus promised us that "If anyone loves me, he will obey my word,

Reader 1: And my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up residence with him."

Reader 2: And so, on the first night of his life on earth, among the cattle and the sheep

Reader 1: Among the bales of hay and the barnyard smells

Reader 2: At the manger, Mary and Joseph had a home

Reader 1: For Christ, the savior of the world, was present with them.

Reader 2: Wherever Jesus is, the Father is with him and he establishes a home.

Reader 1: Today, as we light the Candle of Hope, we remember that our true home is not in a building

Reader 2: We remember that our true home is not a space with a roof and four walls

Reader 1: Our home is with Christ, in God.

Reader 2: As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we remember our true home.

Reader 1: Today we come to the manger to experience true hope.