

A script from



## **“The Advent of Joy”**

by  
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**What** In this Readers Theater script, the story of the shepherds is recounted as the angel appears before them to announce the birth of the Savior, filling them with fear that is soon replaced with joy.

**Themes:** Christmas, Advent, Shepherds, Joy, 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** Luke 2:8-21

**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.

For more ideas on how to perform a Reader’s Theatre, watch [How to Perform a Reader’s Theatre on SkitGuys.com](#).

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Readers enter and address the audience.*

**Reader 1:** It was a cold night, and the shepherds huddled close to each other, their backs against trees.

**Reader 2:** Hands, elbows, knees tucked tight under their cloaks.

**Reader 1:** But it wasn't just the cold they were bracing themselves against.

**Reader 2:** Their eyes fixed by habit into the darkness.

**Reader 1:** Scanning the hills for the silhouette of a stalking lion, hungry for one of their sheep.

**Reader 2:** As their eyes roamed the hills their minds turned over thoughts as they fought to keep awake in the cold.

**Reader 1:** Thoughts of Rome,

**Reader 2:** King Herod

**Reader 1:** Taxes, family

**Reader 2:** The Temple

**Reader 1:** Hunger

**Reader 2:** Sleep.

**Reader 1:** When suddenly the clouds of their breath sparkle with light in the cold night!

**Reader 2:** Before their eyes can make sense of it, they're on their feet.

**Reader 1:** Light so bright they have to shield their eyes to adjust to it.

**Reader 2:** Not a fire, though it moves like a flame in the sky.

**Reader 1:** Before they can cry out in astonishment or fear, they realize it's an angel blazing like the sun.

**Reader 2:** Suspended in the air, so close they could touch him.

**Reader 1:** And then a voice speaks, and it seems to split the sky, fills the hills with a sound like thunder.

**Reader 2:** "Do not be afraid!"

**Reader 1:** The angel says.

**Reader 2:** "Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people."

**Reader 1:** The voice punctuates the night like a drum, their hearts beat to it, almost bursting.

**Reader 2:** "Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

**Reader 1:** And then more angels appear. A heavenly army burning with light so bright it seems like night has turned to day.

**Reader 2:** The sound of thunder becomes the sound of the sweetest music they will ever hear in their lives as the angels give praise:

**Reader 1:** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

**Reader 2:** It could have been an hour

**Reader 1:** Or a day...

**Reader 2:** Perhaps it was only a minute. Time seemed to stop, they were so awash in glory.

**Reader 1:** Once the angels slipped away and their eyes adjusted again to the darkness of the night, only then did they realize that at the advent of heaven they all had fallen to their knees.

**Reader 2:** The sheep, awake and accounted for, were the only other witnesses.

**Reader 1:** Their lives would now be remembered as everything before and everything after this moment in time.

**Reader 2:** A moment when heaven came to earth.

**Reader 1:** A moment when light changed the darkness.

**Reader 2:** The moment they saw and heard the sound of heaven's joy.

**Reader 1:** Then the shepherds said to each other:

**Reader 2:** "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us."

**Reader 1:** Today as we light the Candle of Advent we remember the shepherds' joy.

**Reader 2:** Joy that comes into the world and changes fearful hearts.

**Reader 1:** Joy that comes when life is filled with new meaning.

**Reader 2:** Joy that overflows because we have a Saviour.

**Reader 1:** A joy that can never be taken away!

*Lights out.*

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