

a script from
skitguys.com

"This is Advent: Hope"

By
Andrew Kooman

What We don't receive them very often anymore, but a kind letter that arrives in the mail jolts the heart with hope. This reading is a reminder that the gospel is God's love letter to us, and that Jesus was sent to bring us hope.

Part of the *This is Advent* series, readings that will help your church experience the heart of Christmas all over again.

Themes: Christmas, Advent, Hope, Reader's Theatre, Provision, Encouragement

Who Reader 1
Reader 2

When Present Day

Costumes Wear the clothing you'd wear to church on any other Sunday

Props Envelope with a handwritten note
Candle
Lighter

Why Romans 5:5

How Both a Reader's Theater version and a Monologue version are provided. Can be memorized or read off the page directly to the audience. Use black folders and/or music stands if not memorized but be familiar with the text for better audience connection.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Reader's Theater Version

**Performance notes: If you are reading, read the script with emotion, in a way that's true to you. It's important to be yourself. Don't be afraid to take your time. Readers should look at the audience and at their fellow co-Readers. Be playful and feed off the energy and style of your co-reader, reacting to their lines. For example: Reader 1 can sound sad and slowly recover as they hear Reader 2 share that kids today may have never received a letter. Etc.*

Reader 1 holds up a letter in an envelope.

Reader 1: This is hope.

Reader 2: Well, actually it's a letter.

The **Reader** opens the envelope and pulls out a handwritten note.

Reader 1: It's an unfamiliar object these days, isn't it?

Reader 2: We're so used to sending messages on devices. Our pockets buzzing and beeping.

Reader 1: Messages sent between us, back and forth and around the world in less time than it takes to sneeze. A world of information and communication in the palm of our hands.

Reader 2: People used to communicate through letters, though.

Reader 1: Men on horseback once raced across every type of geography, state by state, and through every kind of weather to deliver letters via the Pony Express.

Reader 2: Pen pals shared stories of their lives across oceans.

Reader 1: Young people fell in love and shared the deepest parts of their hearts, expressed through pen on paper.

Reader 2: Soldiers wrote from the front lines about what they saw on the battlefield. All through letters. Have you received one lately?

Reader 1: Your utility bill doesn't count!

Reader 2: If you're young, there's a chance you've never received one at all.

Reader 1: Maybe your grandma still sends you a note on your birthday with a dollar bill or gift card slipped inside.

Reader 2: There's nothing quite like the challenge of trying to decipher the inked scrawl of a friend or family member with messy handwriting, is there? If you know, you know.

Reader 1: A personal note, thoughtfully written down by a friend, sent with affection, is a wonderful way to experience a little hope.

Reader 2: Did you know that the gospel used to spread through letters? And no matter how God's word and the wonderful news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection spreads today around the world today, the gospel remains God's great love letter to humanity.

Reader 1: It is God's message of hope to *you*.

Reader 2: And He wrote it with His very own hand.

Reader 1: The good news of the gospel is a story written through the whole history of the world that reveals His plan. A plan to set apart people to know Him and to be known by Him.

Reader 2: To put into motion a great rescue operation that would save us from our sin and despair. A message of love to each of us, for the deepest part of our hearts.

Reader 1: The good news that no matter who you are or what you've done, Jesus gave His life for you.

Reader 2: God has written us each a personal invitation to become part of His family and to leave sin and despair behind so that each of us can enter into real, vibrant hope.

Reader 1: A hope that won't disappoint you, because He pours his love into our hearts, changing them for good.

Reader 2: This Christmas, make sure you read His letter of hope that He has sent to you.

Reader 1: You will read this message of hope in the story of Mary who said "yes" to carry the Son of God in her womb.

Reader 2: You will read this message of hope in the story of the Wise Men who came to worship the Christ child.

Reader 1: You'll read it in the story of the shepherds who left their flocks to witness the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Reader 2: Like them, may you see that Jesus brings true hope, for He connects us, forever, to the loving hand of God.

Reader 1 *lights the Advent candle.*

Reader 1: Today, as we light the advent candle, let's remember that God has written a beautiful letter to us.

Reader 2: Let it fill your hearts with hope.

Lights fade to end the play.

Monologue Version

**Performance notes: If you are performing a monologue, make use of the stage. Perhaps you can place the letter down in different moments to maintain the metaphor. Think about how you can be creative with how you hold it, move it, where you place it.*

The **Actor** holds up a letter in an envelope.

Actor: This is hope.

Well, actually it's a letter.

The **Actor** opens the envelope and pulls out a handwritten note.

It's an unfamiliar object these days, isn't it? We're so used to sending messages on devices. Our pockets buzzing and beeping. Messages sent between us, back and forth and around the world in less time than it takes to sneeze. A world of information and communication in the palm of our hands.

People used to communicate through letters, though.

Men on horseback once raced across every type of geography, state by state, and through every kind of weather to deliver letters via the Pony Express.

Pen pals shared stories of their lives across oceans. Young people fell in love and shared the deepest parts of their hearts, expressed through pen on paper. Soldiers wrote from the front lines about what they saw on the battlefield. All through letters.

Have you received one lately? Your utility bill doesn't count!

If you're young, there's a chance you've never received one at all.

Maybe your grandma still sends you a note on your birthday with a dollar bill or gift card slipped inside.

There's nothing quite like the challenge of trying to decipher the inked scrawl of a friend or family member with messy handwriting, is there? If you know, you know.

A personal note, thoughtfully written down by a friend, sent with affection, is a wonderful way to experience a little hope.

Did you know that the gospel used to spread through letters?

And no matter how God's word and the wonderful news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection spreads today around the world today, the gospel remains God's great love letter to humanity.

It is God's message of hope to *you*. And He wrote it with His very own hand. The good news of the gospel is a story written through the whole history of the world that reveals His plan.

A plan to set apart people to know Him and to be known by Him. To put into motion a great rescue operation that would save us from our sin and despair. A message of love to each of us, for the deepest part of our hearts. The good news that no matter who you are or what you've done, Jesus gave His life for you.

God has written us each a personal invitation to become part of His family and to leave sin and despair behind so that each of us can enter into real, vibrant hope. A hope that won't disappoint you, because He pours his love into our hearts, changing them for good.

This Christmas, make sure you read His letter of hope that He has sent to you.

You will read this message of hope in the story of Mary who said "yes" to carry the Son of God in her womb.

You will read this message of hope in the story of the Wise Men who came to worship the Christ child.

You'll read it in the story of the shepherds who left their flocks to witness the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Like them, may you see that Jesus brings true hope, for He connects us, forever, to the loving hand of God.

Actor *lights the Advent candle.*

Today, as we light the advent candle, let's remember that God has written a beautiful letter to us.

Let it fill your hearts with hope.

Lights fade to end the play.