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"This is Advent: Love"

By
Andrew Kooman

What	Thanks fuels our hearts with love for God. This advent reading is a rousing prayer of thanks that focuses on the goodness of God in the midst of all circumstances. It's a reminder that no matter what we face, the love of God surrounds us. Part of the <i>This is Advent</i> series, readings that will help your church experience the heart of Christmas all over again. Themes: Christmas, Advent, Love, Thanks, Thankfulness, Thanksgiving, Reader's Theatre, Declaration, Prayer
Who	Reader 1 Reader 2 Reader 3
When	Present Day
Costumes	Wear the clothing you'd wear to church on any other Sunday
Props	Candle Lighter
Why	Psalms 107:1
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.*

Reader 1 lights a candle and holds it up.

Reader 1: This is love.

Reader 2: Well, actually it's a candle, burning on the wick.

Reader 1 places the candle on the pulpit and looks at the audience, scanning the room.

Reader 3: How do you keep a fire burning? How do you keep love alive?

Reader 1: During Advent we light candles to symbolize that Jesus is the light of the world. Today, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let our hearts be aflame with love for Christ and let that flame burn brightly through giving *thanks*. Thanks is our fuel.

Reader 2: Many of us face challenges in different areas of our lives. Our families, our health, our relationships at work and at home. No matter what we face, we thank you God for healing us, for strengthening us, and for encouraging us.

Reader 3: Thank you, Lord, that you are always with us and that you always lead and guide us. By your Spirit and through your word.

Reader 2: Thank you for your Word, God.

Reader 3: Thank you that you, Jesus, have made a living way to be right with the Father through your advent and birth.

Reader 2: Through your life and your death.

Reader 1: Through your resurrection.

Reader 3: Thank you that we have access to your word, written down through the centuries, which is always available to us to guide and instruct us in the way that we should go.

Reader 1: Today we rest in you, God, and we activate our faith. We believe in you. We trust you. We long for your presence and to walk in your ways.

Reader 1: Thank you for going before us. That you lead and you guide us.

Reader 2: Thank you for your comfort.

Reader 3: Thank you for your empowering grace and for your constant provision.

Reader 1: Thank you for making all things new, God! That your word never returns to you void. And that it does a new thing.

Reader 2: In us. Around us. In our hearts.

Reader 1: In our lives.

Reader 3: In every situation.

Reader 1: Thank you that we are taking the shape you want us to take because you are the Potter and we are the clay.

Reader 2: We thank you that you can do anything. For nothing is impossible for you.

Reader 1: Thank you for your patience with us.

Reader 3: Thank you for your commitment to us.

Reader 1: For your undeniable, immeasurable, and indescribable track record of faithfulness and generosity toward us.

Reader 2: We're so blessed to belong to you.

Reader 3: Thank you for loving us first!

Reader 1: Thank you for not giving up on us, for calling us into your kingdom of light.

Reader 2: Thank you for changing us and renewing us, day by day.

Reader 1: Thank you for every answered prayer in our lives. Too many to count.

Reader 3: Thank you for protecting us and directing us.

Reader 2: Thank you for searching our hearts and convicting us of sin. Thank you for cleansing us and correcting us. For counseling us and consoling us.

Reader 1: Thank you that you are who you say that you are and that you do what you say you will do.

Reader 3: Thank you for letting us approach you and for receiving us.

Reader 2: We love you God. We truly love you!

Reader 1: Everything that we have is because of you.

Reader 3: All our hope is in you.

Reader 1: Jesus, we stop in the busyness and complexity of our lives, no matter what situation we are in,

Reader 2: No matter what we face or what we fear,

Reader 1: We stop and in this moment we acknowledge that because of your life we live.

Reader 3: Because you came to earth we can be accepted and made whole by the Father.

Reader 1 *takes the candle and holds it high.*

Reader 2: Today our hearts burn with love for you, God. This candle of Advent is a symbol of the love that you have given to us, that burns in us.

Reader 1: We are fuelled by your love and we fuel our hearts with thanks for all that you've done.

All: Amen.

Lights fade to end the play.

Monologue Version

**Performance notes: this is your moment to let loose. Be passionate and lean into the power of the prayers. Punch the alliteration like staccato notes. Play with speeds, slowing down moments that resonate with you and speed up areas where you feel the fire. Be a wind chime through which the Spirit moves and makes some sweet noise.*

The **Actor** lights a candle and holds it up.

Actor: This is love.

Well, actually it's a candle, burning on the wick.

The **Actor** places the candle on the pulpit and looks at the audience, scanning the room.

How do you keep a fire burning? How do you keep love alive?

During Advent we light candles to symbolize that Jesus is the light of the world. Today as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let our hearts be aflame with love for Christ and let that flame burn brightly through giving *thanks*. Thanks is our fuel.

Many of us face challenges in different areas of our lives. Our families, our health, our relationships at work and at home. No matter what we face, we thank you God for healing us, for strengthening us and for encouraging us.

Thank you, Lord, that you are always with us and that you always lead and guide us. By your Spirit and through your word.

Thank you for your Word, God.

Thank you that you, Jesus, have made a living way to be right with the Father through your advent and birth. Through your life and your death. Through your resurrection.

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Thank you for your comfort.

Thank you for your empowering grace and for your constant provision.

Thank you for making all things new, God! That your word never returns to you void. And that it does a new thing. In us. Around us. In our hearts. In our lives. In every situation.

Thank you that we are taking the shape you want us to take because you are the Potter and we are the clay.

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Because you came to earth we can be accepted and made whole by the Father.

*The **Actor** takes the candle and holds it high.*

Today our hearts burn with love for you, God. This candle of Advent is a symbol of the love that you have given to us, that burns in us.

We are fuelled by your love and we fuel our hearts with thanks for all that you've done.

Amen.

Lights fade to end the play.