# AN ADVENT MEDITATION

**Cast of Characters**:

Reader, Mother, Mary, Joseph, Angels, 5 children

**Need:**

Reading light for reader

Cradle/Manger covered in burlap

Infant Jesus baby doll

Battery-powered Tea Candles (easily found @ Wal-Mart & Dollar stores) per angel

Rocking chair

Spotlight

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**Meditation:**

*(The reader positions himself to the side of the stage with a light for reading. Group of angels with tea candles stand on other side of stage. A rocking chair with cradle/manger covered in burlap is placed in center of stage. The rest of the room is in darkness.)*

The day fades away and night falls.

The stars tack a curtain of black velvet across a land …

*(Group of angels on other side of stage light tea candles.)*

…a barren land where no snow christens the land where saints and sinners alike tread lightly.

A land where people go to sleep hungry and some have eaten enough for two.

*(Spotlight is turned on and focused to center stage where a Mother rocks her baby softly in rocking chair.)*

Where one mother rocks a crying baby to sleep and another cries for the one she buried that day.

Where someone goes to sleep filled with misery and another sleeps peacefully.

*(Mother places swaddled infant in cradle covered in burlap, pushes chair toward back of stage and exits.)*

Where a dog sniffs outside a door hoping for food while a wolf on the plain circles his bed with contentment from his meal of raw lamb.

The town sleeps on the hillside as a weary couple arrives among the animals.

*(Mary and Joseph enter, walk to center stage, and kneel before the cradle/manger)*

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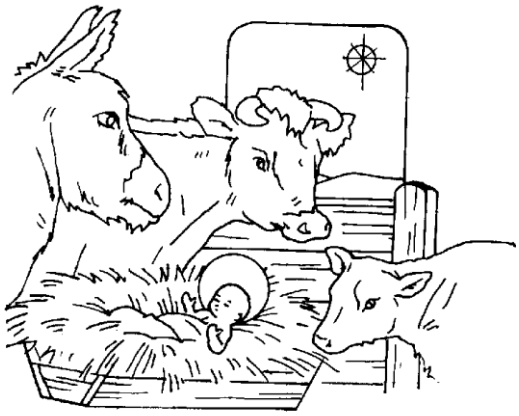

The cow moans in wonder.

The hen clucks with nervous attitude.

The lamb frets the interruption of unexpected guests.

Straw is packed. A blanket is laid into the manger where the animals feed.

A lone star flickers bright against a lonely world of sin, rejection, sorrow, and hunger.

Smell the life within this place.

Damp hay for the mule.

Molding food for the pigs.

Manure from the cow.

Raw earth upon which a king is born.

*(Joseph lifts the baby high)*

The world has not changed. The world is still lonely, filled with sin, rejection, sorrow, and hunger.

In a fallen world, a Savior is raised.

In a darkened world, a light is born.

In a lost world, hope is found.

In a lonely world, a cry is heard.

In a hungry world, faith is fed.

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In a desolate cave, hope springs eternal.

A star burns bright and angels sing.

For unto you this day in the city of David--- in the straw and mold and smells and raw earth--- a Savior is born…

*(Mary cradles the baby)*

And 2011 years later He knows you by name.

He knows each of you by name.

Each of you is his adopted sons and daughters, his adopted brothers and sisters.

*(About 5 children enter and kneel before Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. They bow deeply so audience can see the nativity scene over them.)*

*(The reader continues to read as they kneel.)*

He knit you in your mother's womb.

He knit you with a plan…with a purpose.

You are more than a scientific explanation. You…You…You are His creation. You have something doctors can't find, scientists can't prove, and no other animal possesses.

A soul! A part of God.

Under the same black velvet sky which led the magi to a cave and baby over 2011 years ago…

*(Magi enter and stand to side of nativity scene but within spotlight.)*

…the stars look down from those same heavens and call you to look for something higher than yourself, more powerful than yourself, wiser than yourself…to become part of His plan, His will.

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*(5 children rise quietly and exit.)*

This life is not about you. This life is about the person sitting to your left and the person sitting on your right. This life is about how you treat others. This life is about how you serve others.

This Christmas is not about the gifts you get which will mean nothing by next Christmas. This Christmas is how you make people feel today.

You are, in reality, called to become the hands and feet of Christ, the risen Lord who walked, healed, counseled, nourished, listened to people upon the earth over 2000 years ago.

Are you His? Will you do His work? Will you serve Him this Christmas? Will you be His this Christmas?

*(Stop and bow heads in silence. All lights---tea candles & spotlight---are extinguished.)*

*(A Christmas Prayer may follow.)*

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