

thESource *Gospel Drama*

Your Name in Lights

by Rev. Dean Nadasdy

On the Way to the Chancel

These little dramas are intended for use in the worship service either prior to or following the reading of the Sunday Gospel. Either way, through parable, fantasy or direct reference, they are a way to capture the obvious and the subtle themes in the Gospels for Advent through Epiphany.

The dramas require little rehearsal and few actors. Set furnishings and props are minimal. They are written to be presented primarily by young people for the worshiping congregation.

The "Focus" section introducing the dramas might be proclaimed before the drama is presented or simply printed in the worship folder.

If they enhance a celebration of the comedy of God that culminates in the birth of a baby boy in Bethlehem destined to save His people from their sins, they will have done what they were meant to do.

The Gospel for Advent 3 (Series B)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28

FOCUS:

Like John, we are not the Light, but witnesses to the Light. There is One greater than we.

SCENE:

An appreciation banquet at a Christian church. A dais can be set up in the chancel by seating the characters behind a table facing the congregation, with various award recipients coming to the speaker's rostrum. Three awards in the shape of gold light bulbs are needed along with three envelopes. Other nominees, not chosen, should also sit on the dais.

CHARACTERS:

Emcee - typical, trite banquet host

Bob - macho, self assured

Liz - suffering from severe case of volunteerism, eager, dedicated to goal of serving on more committees than anyone else

John - has seen the Light; a witness

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Emcee: Friends, now for the most cherished moment of our annual Appreciation Banquet, the awarding of the most coveted award presented here at Advent Church. The Name-In-Lights Award is given to those chosen few from our midst who have done, said, or given the most over the last year. Following the banquet and for the next year, their names will appear in lights on the marquee at the entrance to our church. Think of it. "ADVENT CHURCH...STARRING..." Well, let's just fill in the blanks right now. I have here in these envelopes the names of no less than three, count 'em, (*holds up envelopes*) three winners of The Name-in-Lights Award. So without further ado, our first winner is (*opens envelope*) Bob Sweeney! Bob Sweeney is a charter member of Advent Church. We thought it was about time he saw his name in lights. Bob has single-handedly been responsible for more conversions in a single year than any other church member, and I'm not talking football, either. Bob is Mr. Evangelism. They don't get away from Bob. Come on up here now, Mr. Sweeney, and get your honors.

Bob: (*struts forward to rostrum; receives award; Emcee steps aside*) Thank you. In all candor, I must say, this recognition has been a long time coming. It gets awful lonely at the top staring there at my Bible with a notch in it for every soul I've brought to Advent Church since we opened our doors.

Emcee: *(steps forward)* You put notches in your Bible for every conversion you pull off?

Bob: That's right.

Emcee: He puts notches in his Bible. Isn't that something? Anyone you'd like to thank, Bob? Someone to whom you owe your success?

Bob: No, not particularly.

Emcee: No one?

Bob: No.

Emcee: *(surprised)* Okay. Enjoy, Bob, enjoy. *(Bob returns to place on dais)* Envelope number two. *(holds up envelope)* And our second winner is *(opens envelope)* Elizabeth Snodgress! *(Elizabeth immediately and greedily joins Emcee at rostrum; Emcee puts arm around her)* Let me tell you a little something about Liz. We have eight boards here at church. Liz is a member of five, two of which she chairs. She teaches Sunday School, heads up our VBS, and is Treasurer of the Women's Guild. As if that weren't enough, Liz gives her blood at the Blood Bank every chance she gets, something only Liz can do. Right? I say that's enough to put her name in lights. Congratulations, Liz. *(presents award, perhaps a hug or kiss; then steps aside)*

Liz: *(ecstatic)* This is a dream of a lifetime. I always wanted to serve on the Name-in-Lights Choice Committee, but had too many schedule conflicts. Now I am a recipient. I would like to thank my husband and four children without whom this would have never happened. Being gone at church four nights a week presents a strain on one's family. We're still together, though, by the grace of God, when Bill and the kids aren't down at church on my off-nights.

Emcee: *(at Liz's side)* What sacrifice! What dedication! Advent Church...Starring Liz Snodgress! Thank you, Elizabeth. *(Liz returns to place with award)* Our last envelope. *(holds up envelope)* Your name in lights *(opens envelope)* John Jordan! Is John here? *(John makes way to rostrum from among the congregation, not having been seated at the dais)* Ah, here he is. John is somewhat new to us. We haven't really got much information on what he's done since he's been here, but he has been chosen a winner of The Name-in-Lights Award. *(handing John the award)* Congratulations, John.

John: No thank you.

Emcee: Such humility. Go ahead, John. Take it. You deserve it.

John: No thank you.

Emcee: You can't refuse the award.

John: I am not the Light, either. He is the Light. I bear witness to Him.

Emcee: "You are the light of the world," Matthew 5:14 says.

John: But there is light, and there is *Light*. *(walks away)*

Emcee: *(holding award)* Till next year, right? *(pauses for some response from the audience.)* Right? *(all exit)*

The End.

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