

## AN ADVENT SERVICE OF CANDLES & CAROLS by VINCE WILCOX

**GENRE:** Reader's Theatre

**SYNOPSIS:** This simply elegant scripture-based candles and carols presentation includes responsive scripture readings (with a leader) for weekly Advent candle lightings or for presentation as a single Christmas Eve candlelight service.

**TIME:** 18 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Christmas

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Genesis 1:2-3; Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Matthew 1:18, 20-21, 24, 2:1-6; Luke 1:26-33, 2:1-14, 16-20; John 1:3-5; Philippians 2:5-11

**SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** This program may be presented in its entirety as a Christmas Eve/Christmas Day candlelight service or broken up and used for individual Advent Sundays. Please feel free to adapt the resources as you see fit—projecting the readings on a screen or including them in your worship bulletin for congregational use.

Times for each part and all together:

With Carols	Without Carols
Part One 3-1/2 minutes	2 minutes
Part Two 2-1/2 minutes	1-1/2 minutes
Part Three 3-1/2 minutes	2 minutes
Part Four 4-1/2 minutes	3 minutes
Part Five 4 minutes	2 minutes
TOTAL 18 minutes	8 minutes

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** None

**SOUND:** One wireless mic or simply use podium mic

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Bare Stage

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**PART 1 (or Week 1: THE PROPHECY CANDLE (HOPE))**

**LEADER:**

Welcome to this service of candles and carols.

Light and darkness are powerful metaphors for  
good and evil...

truth and falsehood...

life and death.

In Genesis, chapter one, verses 2 and 3, we read:

*“...the earth was formless and empty,  
darkness was over the surface of the deep,  
and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.  
And God said, ‘Let there be light,’  
and there was light.”*

[Strike the match/light the lighter]

In the Gospel of John, chapter one, verses 3 through 5 we read:

*“Through him [Christ] all things were made;  
without him nothing was made that has been made.  
In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

(Light the first candle.)

**PEOPLE:**

By lighting this candle,

we proclaim that the light of God’s goodness, truth, and life  
was illuminated in the person of his Son, Jesus.

**LEADER:**

We light the Prophecy Candle,

affirming that the promise God made to

Adam and Eve...

Abraham and Sarah...