

PREPARE THE WAY

by GEORGE SCRANTON

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Readings from the book of Isaiah and the Gospel according to Mark combine to form a beautiful dramatic reading of the nativity story. A wonderful text for the Advent season.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This script was originally performed in Seattle, Washington, and has location references in the script. Please substitute your city wherever you see "Seattle" and your state wherever you see "Washington." In a choral reading, timing of the lines is extremely important and must be rehearsed thoroughly. Don't assume that because you have the option of using scripts, this piece requires less rehearsal time.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 6

TOPIC: Salvation, Advent

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

CHARACTERS:

Voice 1-Male
Voice 2-Female
Voice 3-Male
Voice 4-Female
Voice 5-Male
Voice 6-Female

PROPS: 1) Notebooks for scripts (optional)

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character, or have all readers dress in similar clothing (for example, in black pants and white shirts)

SOUND: Six wireless mics; choir singing "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" (optional)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Bare stage

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Scene opens with all six READERS onstage.

VOICES 1, 2, 3: Comfort.

VOICES 4, 5, 6: Comfort.

ALL: O Comfort my people, says your God.

VOICES 4, 5, 6: Speak tenderly:

VOICES 1, 2, 3: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem;

VOICES 1, 2, 3: Speak tenderly to this, my city;

VOICES 4, 5, 6: Speak tenderly to this, my people.

ALL: Cry to them:

VOICES 1, 5, 6: Cry to them that they have received

VOICES 1, 4, 5, 6: from the LORD's hand

VOICES 3, 4, 5, 6: double,

ALL: yes, double,

VOICES 4, 5, 6: for all their sins.

VOICE 1: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

VOICE 2: "Prepare the way of the LORD,

VOICE 3: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

VOICE 4: Every valley shall be lifted up,

VOICES 4, 5: and every mountain and hill

VOICE 4: shall be made low;

VOICE 5: the uneven ground shall become level,

VOICES 5, 6: and the rough places a plain.

VOICES 4, 5, 6: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed;

VOICES 3, 4, 5, 6: the glory of the LORD.

ALL: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,