

# Supplicants: An Advent Drama

A Play in One Act

by  
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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

Using historical and contemporary voices, "Supplicants: An Advent Drama" broaches thought-provoking Advent themes that are often overlooked during the holiday season. A Hebrew man circa 10 BCE; a present-day businessman, physician, soldier, and homeless woman -- the play's characters anticipate deliverance from distress even as they despair of present circumstances. "Supplicants" is a one-act drama addressing non-denominational Christian spiritual issues and is appropriate for family audiences.

**RUNNING TIME:** approximately 15 - 20 minutes.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 m, 2 w, 1 flexible, and chorus.)*

**A HEBREW ADULT MALE**

**A BUSINESSMAN**

**A FEMALE PHYSICIAN**

**A SOLDIER:** *(Flexible role)*

**A HOMELESS WOMAN**

**CHORUS**

\*Note on casting: All actors should be able to sing, one of the females should have a solo voice. The a cappella chorus may be any age or gender, depending on available talent and/or individual production considerations.

## **Production Notes Props, Costumes, and Makeup Hints**

### **Scene 1**

Props: Scroll inscribed with text of Isaiah 9:2-7; tall-standing candlestick that holds one large candle.

Costume: Long robe w/rope sash at waist; headdress, sashed around forehead; leather thong sandals; gray hair and beard.

### **Scene 2**

Props: Briefcase, w/letter inside;

Costume: Business suit and tie; serious shoes.

### **Scene 3**

Props: Desk covered with papers and charts (folders); chair, telephone with buttons for different lines; buzzer for telephone; stand-up framed family portrait (parents and a male child).

Costume: White lab coat with nametag; stethoscope around neck.

### **Scene 4**

Props: Old, worn folding-type chair, pen and stationery.

Costume: Nondescript army fatigues; boots.

### **Scene 5**

Props: Dirty duffel/laundry bag; trash can; aluminum soda cans; butane lighter (capable of being held in a lit position without burning fingers), words and music (for chorus) to verses 1 and 3 of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Costumes: Ragged clothes, shoes and overcoat; hair messy and streaked for Homeless Woman. Choir robes for chorus members.

## **Scene 1: A Hebrew Adult Male**

*(Spotlight on a Hebrew man stage right. He is clutching a scroll with both hands, standing next to a tall candlestick that holds a large candle that is lit. He unrolls scroll, reads passage from Isaiah 9:2-7.)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there will be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord of hosts will do this.

*(Re-rolls scroll, gazes at candle, then heavenward.)*

Surely, Lord, you hear the cries of your people. We hear and await the fulfillment of your promises. Yet still the oppressors occupy our land, mock our traditions, desecrate our temples and deny our God. How long must the faithful endure? When shall your people rejoice?

*(Lowers head, shuts eyes, clutches scroll to chest, blows out candle.)*

**BLACKOUT**

## **Scene 2: A Businessman**

*(Spotlight on businessman holding a briefcase stage left. HE opens briefcase, removes letter inside, reads it.)*

“We are pleased to inform you that you have been named Private Citizen of the Year by the Greater Washington County Business Association. Accordingly, we request your presence at a banquet to be held on January 17th, given in honor of your numerous business, community and philanthropic...” *(Refolds letter, holds it.)*

I maxed out on charitable contributions on my 1040 form. I suppose a Private Citizen of the Year should be too modest to admit that, but it's true. What's more, it's intentional. I put in a few hours every week, ladling soup in the church parish hall. The local congregations serve meals to the homeless; Tuesday night is our turn. And...

*(Ticks off imaginary list on fingers.)*

The Domestic Crisis Hotline; World Hunger Relief; Alzheimer's Research Institute; Wetlands Preservation Society; Children's Cancer Hospice; Transitional Living Shelter; Alumni Scholarship Diversity Fund....I provide substantial financial backing for these organizations. They help a lot of people, and I'm happy to be able to help them. I was brought up to be thankful for my blessings; I believe in responsible stewardship. I'm humbled by every check I write, by every bowl of soup I serve, in that I'm reminded of my own abundance. I'm grateful, for both my relative prosperity and for the many opportunities I have to share, to give back. *(Reopens and looks at letter.)* Really, I am. So why do I feel like I'm the one... *(Shakes letter.)* who needs ... something?

**BLACKOUT**

## **End of Freeview**

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