



## Bible Drama Scripts presents

# BIRTH PAINS

By Patricia Souder

**SYNOPSIS:** A thought-provoking monologue in poetic form that reflects on the pain  
Father, Mother, and Son experienced as Jesus became “Emmanuel, God with us.”

**SETTING:** Present.

**CHARACTER:** A Mother.

**PERFORMANCE TIME:** 2-3 minutes

**PERFORMANCE NOTE:** Speak slowly and expressively. Emphasize and savor each  
word. Gesture as appropriate. Create a growing sense of wonder. Suggested arm  
movements at the end should flow smoothly from one to another. Build to a  
climax with the last two lines.

**TOPICS:** Christmas, Mary, Emmanuel, Cost of the Incarnation, Advent.

**PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES:** Worship Service, Outreach Event, Readers  
Theatre.

**BIBLE REFERENCES:** Matthew 1: 20-24; Luke 2: 6-14.

**PROPS:** Small table. Large basket filled with laundry to be folded. Place a towel near  
the top where it can be pulled out. Optional: Christmas tree or other decorations in  
the background.

**BIRTH PAINS**

*Sing "Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright" as enter with laundry basket. Set basket on table. Pull out a towel and start folding it. Stop and look thoughtful. Throw towel back into basket and gesture toward audience to ask . . .*

Do we really think Emmanuel  
Slid silently into our world  
On a quiet, peaceful night?

My firstborn came  
Crying  
Kicking  
Gasping for air  
As I shivered and shook,  
Exhausted from  
Panting  
Pushing  
Praying.

Was Christ's coming less labored?  
Or do we  
Sterilize the stable . . .  
Sentimentalize the saga . . . and  
Ceremonialize the Incarnation

To minimize the birth pains  
Father (*Raise right arm to point to God*)  
Mother (*Bend arms at elbows with palms up*)  
and Baby (*Cross wrists and move arms as if rocking a baby*)

Suffered

As God stripped Himself of glory that night . . . (*Fling arms apart, palms down*)

Giving (*Extend arms, palms up, to audience*)  
Grieving (*Arms form an "X" across chest as if hugging self*)  
Groaning (*Bow head, close eyes, form fists, groan as say "groaning"*)

To be one with us . . . (*Extend arms, then bring them together in wide circle of inclusion*)

So we can be one with Him? (*Raise right arm heavenward as left arm braces right arm*)