

THE *Miracle*
OF
Christmas
WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY

DRAMA SCRIPT

by Lisa Parker

The Miracle of Christmas

Drama Script

by Lisa Parker

Cast

Josh - choir member

Kevin - choir member

Choir Director/Worship Leader

Claire - choir member

Emma - choir member

Angie - choir member

Betty - church member, older lady

Extras - the choir

Options before the last song

1. Three children do a biblical scene
2. A child (boy or girl) tells the Nativity story

Setting

A church choir's final rehearsal before its Christmas Eve Service

Present day

There are three chairs on each side of the choir loft.

SCENE ONE

(Preset: all props, chairs, set, and so forth in place)

(Lights fade)

(Choir enters, taking places in loft or performance area and remains standing.)

(Choir Director enters, faces choir.)

Song: “Noel” with “The First Noel”

Choir Director: Great job, everyone! I think we’re all set. Let’s take a break before people start arriving. Kevin, will you pray for us?

Kevin: I’ll be glad to. Most holy Father, we come before You with grateful hearts for this time to celebrate the coming of our Savior. Help us sing and worship You now and in the moments to come.

(Intro begins to “O Love Divine”)

Kevin: *(continuing prayer)* Thank You for the miracle of Christmas—that You humbled Yourself for us, that You loved us enough to die for us, that You are even now with us. Amen.

Song: “O Love Divine”

SCENE TWO

(Several choir members sit, several exit briefly, or quietly talk in small groups. Claire comes out of the loft to the chairs at stage right. She sits down, texting on her cell phone.)

(Angie approaches Claire.)

Angie: Hey Claire, whatcha doing?

Claire: Oh, hi Angie. I'm texting the alien that took over my daughter several months ago. Even aliens need to study for exams.

Angie: I hear you. Tanner will do anything to keep from studying. He even offered to clean his room last night. He has a pair of pants that can stand up all by themselves.

Claire: Tell me about it. Last week was Ashley's turn to dust. You know what she said? "I dusted once, Mom. It all came back. I'm not falling for that again."

(Emma walks up, holding a bottle of water.)

Emma: Hi girls! We have goodies in the choir room if you want something.

Angie: I'm trying to be good. I thought the dryer was making my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.

Emma: Christmas is NOT the time of year to be on a diet, girl!

Claire: Christmas is not the time of year for a lot of things, Emma. I'm meeting myself coming back, and still can't get it all done. Why is everything so much harder at Christmas?

Angie: Because there are so many extra things you have to do.

Emma: Which is a shame because all of the busyness distracts me from the real meaning of Christmas.

Claire: There's a paradox ... or anagram, or whatever. But what are we supposed to do? It's all good stuff. What do you cut out?

Angie: Maybe it isn't that we have so much to do.

Claire: I'm not following you.

Angie: I've been studying the Book of Luke, and just today I read about Mary and Martha in Chapter 10. Jesus and His disciples stopped by their home on the way to Jerusalem. While Martha was running around trying to get dinner ready, Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to Him teach.

Emma: And when Martha complained that Mary wasn't helping out, Jesus said, "Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! Only one thing is needed. Mary knows what that is, and it will never be taken away from her." That's one of my favorite passages.

Angie: It reminds me that every day, and especially at Christmas, there will be distractions. Martha got distracted from doing what was truly important. I mean, the Son of God was right there in her living room! The dishes could wait!

Claire: Only one thing is needed. I wish I could do that—just leave things undone and pray or study God's Word like I should.

Angie: Jesus wasn't saying her work was bad or unnecessary. He was pointing out that Martha let her work become more important than being with Jesus.

Emma: It's really sad, isn't it, that we let that happen ... especially at Christmas.

Angie: Why can't we get done what we really need to do and still be close to Jesus?

Claire: And how would we pull that off?

Emma: I think I know. Do what you need to do each day, but don't give up your quiet time, no matter how crazy things get.

Angie: Maybe it's about being willing to lay aside my plans when I know God is directing me to something else.

Claire: Yeah, like Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was engaged, her life was on track, she was all set ... until the angel appeared and gave her news that changed everything. So what did she do?

Angie: I can tell you what she didn't do. She didn't say, "Give me a few days to think it over," or "Sorry, I'm a little busy right now."

Emma: She said, "Let it be unto me, just as you said."

Claire: I wish I could face life's challenges with that kind of peace.

Angie: Think about what was going on in Mary's world. God had been silent for over four hundred years. This news brought back something they had forgotten how to feel—hope.

Song: "Hope Was Born This Night"

(During the song, the actors can watch and listen to the choir, or they can sing along.)

SCENE THREE

(Josh makes his way to a chair on stage left. He opens a Bible and begins to read. Kevin exits.)

Claire: Emma, did your daughter sell Girl Scout cookies this year? I haven't gotten my thin mint fix in forever!

Emma: No. She joined the band, and they sold laundry powder. I'll have clean clothes for the next sixty years.

Angie: I had to put my foot down with all that. I told my kids, "no more fund-raisers, unless it's bacon."

Emma: I was a little surprised this year, though, that Josh didn't buy anything. They have always been big supporters of the kids' fund-raisers.

Angie: *(looking across at Josh)* You know he lost his job in the fall.

Emma: Josh? No! What happened?

Angie: It was one of those downsizing things.

Claire: They live around the corner from me. But I had no idea.

Angie: He's applied for jobs everywhere, but hasn't gotten an offer yet. Last week they told the kids they would only be getting things they really need for Christmas. They are putting their house up for sale in January.

Emma: It must be hard to sing about the miracle of Christmas when your life has been turned upside down.

(Josh crosses to the ladies at stage right.)

Claire: I don't get it. The whole family seems happy. They act like everything is fine.

Josh: Merry Christmas, ladies! How's everyone doing?

Emma: We're doing great, compared to you. ... Oh, uh ... (*embarrassed*)
I mean, Merry Christmas!

Angie: I told them about your job, Josh, as a prayer request.

Claire: Right! A prayer request! Is there anything we can do to help you guys?

Josh: (*smiling*) No, we're really OK. I haven't tried to hide our situation, but we haven't made a point of announcing it, either. I don't want people to treat us differently, but we really appreciate your prayers.

Emma: Could we help with the kids' Christmas somehow?

Josh: Thanks for the offer. We've been truthful with them, and going through it together has made us closer as a family. Their faith is growing, and mine is too. I believe this is going to be one of the best Christmases we'll ever have together.

Claire: I know the Bible says, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding, but how do you keep from worrying?

(*If spotlights are available, fade stage lights down slow and go to spot on Josh.*)

Josh: I would be lying if I said I never worry about this. But if my faith is real, then I need to exercise it, right? Before all this happened, my faith was like a favorite sweater. I kept it in the closet and didn't think about it much until it turned cold. Now I'm beginning to learn how to really exercise my faith every day.

We've used up all our savings, we've cut back everywhere we can, and we're not sure where we're going to go after the house sells. But every time I catch myself worrying, I stop and pray. I tell God that I trust Him to see us through this, because I know He will. I know God has a plan. I know He's working. And right now, I'm closer to God than I have ever been.

(*Option: Begin intro to song over the end of Josh's line.*)

Song: "I Love the Lord" with "Total Praise"

SCENE FOUR

(Kevin approaches and sits down next to Josh, who has gone back over to stage left. Angie, Emma, and Claire join the choir or exit.)

Kevin: Hey man, is Sarah singing with the children's choir later on?

Josh: Yeah. She's so excited about Christmas. She can't be still for two minutes, except to sing with the choir.

Kevin: In spite of everything that's happened ... you know ... with your job situation?

Josh: I think she's excited because of it. My kids have so much faith. They just know that God is going to do something big.

Kevin: And you? Do you believe that?

Josh: God is going to take care of us. He's going to answer our prayers. There is a lot I don't understand about His timing or the way He works. But no matter what, God is good.

Kevin: That's a miracle in itself when you consider the nature of man.

Josh: You want to know something? This Christmas has been less stressful, less hectic ... and definitely more spirit-filled than usual. I can't explain it. It's like all this has, I don't know, freed me up to be more joyful. Does that make any sense?

Kevin: Absolutely! Remember the story Jesus told about the farmer and the seeds?

Josh: Sure. A farmer went out to spread seeds. Some of them fell on the road, some fell on rocky soil, some in the thorns, and some fell on good soil. What does that have to do with Christmas?

Kevin: Jesus explained: The seeds that fell into the thorns represent those who believe, like you and me, but the joy of life with Christ is crowded out sometimes by the thorns of life—problems and money and stuff. The world traps us into giving those things too much importance, especially at Christmas. You’ve had some of that stripped away, and it’s bringing you freedom you haven’t felt in a long time.

(Intro begins to “Glorious Wonder”)

Kevin: You, probably more than anyone else here, have a reason to sing the songs of Christmas with all your heart.

Josh: *(smiling and nodding his head “yes”)* Miracles ...

Song: “Glorious Wonder”

SCENE FIVE

(Angie enters with two coffees. She sits next to Emma at stage right. Betty enters with a basket of cookies, giving some to Extras.)

Angie: *(handing a coffee to Emma)* Here you go. We still have a little time before the service.

Emma: There's always time for coffee! I just love these Christmas Eve services. Normally on the night before Christmas, our house looks like the opening of *Home Alone*. This service brings a little calm into our world.

Angie: To me, it's all part of celebrating the season.

(Betty walks up. She is wearing red plaid sneakers.)

Betty: *(holding out the basket of cookies)* Hi girls! Merry Christmas and joy to the neighborhood!

Emma: *(taking a cookie)* Thank you, Betty. Merry Christmas and joy to the world!

Betty: Honey, you can have the world. I can only take on the neighborhood.

Angie: You look beautiful! All ... dressed up for Christmas!

Betty: I know what I look like, no matter how far I back up from the mirror. But I decided to have a positive attitude about this aging business. I told myself going out the door today: I'm not a hot mess. I'm a spicy disaster! *(kicks her leg back)*

Emma: I love that!

Angie: *(to Betty)* Are your kids and grandkids coming over for Christmas?

Betty: No, honey, they are at the point in life where they have other people making plans for them. I want them to come over because they want to. I should get an award for keeping my mouth shut.

Emma: If you're going to be by yourself, please come over to our house! We'd love to have you.

Angie: Nobody should be alone at Christmas.

Betty: Need a dishwasher, huh? I'm just kidding. *(sitting down)* You know, it took me a while to get over myself after Tom passed away. It's true, holidays are harder when there is an empty place at the table. But, the Lord finally got my attention one day. He said, "Betty, it's OK to grieve, but you're past all that. All you're doing is feeling sorry for yourself. Look around, you've still got things to do and people you need to help, for My sake. Remember the last thing I said before I went back to heaven? I will be with you always, even to the end of the world. I wasn't just talking to the people standing around that day. I was talking to you, too. I love you more than you will ever know. You will never be alone."

Angie: That's beautiful, Betty.

Betty: That's Jesus, honey. And ever since then, I've never felt alone. I get up every morning, ready to punch the day in the face.

Emma: But ... about Christmas? Can you come over?

Betty: Thank you so much, but there's an older man two houses down from me. He is two scoops of grumpy in a bowl full of ornery. I'm going to drop by his house on Christmas Day with a few presents, some hot food, and a big dose of Jesus. I'm going to try my best to bring that man some joy!

Angie: Just like Jesus ... joy to the neighborhood!

Betty: Joy to the world!

Song: "All Creation Sing (Joy to the World)"

SCENE SIX

Choir Director: *(speaking to the house)* Thank you for coming to our Christmas celebration. Before we go any further, let's get our hearts in tune with the reason we're here. Like the phrase goes: Jesus is the reason for the season. The saying may be a little overused, but it's true.

In the classic movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, George Bailey finds out what the world would be like if he had never been born. In the same way, what would the world be like if Jesus had never been born?

The obvious answer is that there would be no Christmas. But it goes a lot deeper than that. If Jesus had never been born, there would be no hope. There would be no way to be saved from our sins. There would be no promises, no New Testament, no Holy Spirit. There would be no life after the grave.

But the miracle of Christmas is this: Jesus was born. We do have hope. Christ's life, death, and resurrection make salvation available for everyone, no matter their sin. We have this precious gift, which prophets foretold but could never experience, because Christ had not yet been born. Even angels marvel at the great mystery of salvation. We have promises, we have the Holy Spirit, and we have God's Word revealed in the New Testament. Most of all, we can have eternal life ... because Jesus was born.

Angie: Jesus was born, and He is Immanuel, God with us! So remember that every day, and especially at Christmas, there will be distractions. But the Son of God is right there in your living room! The dishes can wait.

Josh: Jesus was born. Because of that, I know God has a plan for me. I know He's working. He's answering our prayers. There is a lot I don't understand, but that's OK. God is so good!

Betty: Jesus was born. And the last thing He said on earth was, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the world." He wasn't just talking to the people standing around that day. He was talking to you, too. He loves you more than you will ever know. You will never be alone.

Song: "Star of Promise"

(The Pastor or Worship Leader can greet the audience here. The plan of salvation might be explained, with a time of reflection and prayer so those who want to make a decision can come forward.)

SCENE SEVEN

(The children's choir enters and takes places.)

(Dressed in biblical costumes, Benjamin, Sarah, and Daniel enter and take places.)

(Daniel is asleep. Benjamin and Sarah rush over to wake him.)

Benjamin: Daniel! Wake up! Everybody's going to town!

Daniel: *(sitting up, groggy)* Wait, what? Why? It's the middle of the night!

Sarah: You missed the whole thing! I told you to stay with us!

Daniel: But Job can't keep up with the others. His leg ...

Benjamin: He's just a lamb ... leave him behind!

Sarah: We were just about asleep, and suddenly there was ... a bright light, and this voice, ... and then a whole bunch of voices and ...

Daniel: Is this another dream?

Benjamin: No, I saw it too. Everybody did! They said come to Bethlehem to see this new baby who's a Savior Christ the Lord! *(spoken as one word)*

Daniel: Wait! How will you find Him?

Sarah: They said, "You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Benjamin: Don't you mean "swaddling" clothes?

Sarah: Something like that. Come on!

Daniel: I can't leave Job behind. He needs me. He's crippled.

Benjamin: Then bring him ... but hurry up! The others are going to beat us there!

Daniel: I can't bring Him.

Sarah: Why not?

Daniel: Because ... if this baby is the Savior Christ the Lord, (*spoken as one word*) I need to bring Him a sacrifice, or something. I can't give Job to him.

Benjamin: You're right. Only a perfect lamb can be offered in the temple.

Sarah: Yeah, but the baby isn't in the temple. Remember, the angel said, "You will find the babe wrapped in swallowing clothes."

Daniel and Benjamin: SWADDLING clothes!

Sarah: OK, whatever! Anyway, He'll be wrapped in ... strips of cloth, lying in a manger. That means He's in a stable somewhere.

Benjamin: And anyway, there's that really big star, too. It will show us the way.

Daniel: Y'all go ahead. I can't go see the Savior without something to offer. I don't have anything.

Sarah: Daniel, this may be the only chance you ever have to see Him! If we can't see Him just because we don't have anything to offer, then why did the angels appear to us? They already know how poor we are!

Benjamin: Yeah. And why would He be born in a stable instead of a palace, or at least in a regular room?

Daniel: Maybe you're right. If Jesus is in a stable, maybe anybody can go to Him, even me. Even Job.

Sarah: Daniel, you have the biggest heart of all of us. Give that to Jesus. OK?

(The three shepherds join the choir.)

Song: "What Can I Give Him?"

(Second option before Scene Seven: have a child tell the story of Jesus' birth. He or she can hold a handmade book and read the words, so memory won't be a problem.)

Child: This is the story of Jesus' birth. It's the greatest story ever because it's all true. It's a story for me and it's also for you! You see, God loves you and me soooo much that ...

Once there was a girl named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. One day an angel appeared to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby. But this would be a very special baby. This baby was God's own Son, and His name would be Jesus.

When Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby, he didn't know what to do. Should he marry her? Should he send her away? God sent His angel to Joseph to help him understand. The angel said, "Joseph, don't be afraid. This is part of God's special plan to save the whole world."

Joseph did everything God told him to do. He promised to take care of Mary and be a good earthly father to Jesus. A few months later, when it was almost time for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph had to travel to the little town of Bethlehem because the king was counting everyone who lived in his kingdom.

It was a hard journey. When they finally got there, Mary knew it was almost time for Jesus to be born. Bethlehem was so crowded, there was nowhere for them to stay. Nowhere, except the place where the animals were kept.

And that's where Jesus was born. Mary wrapped her baby with strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, the place where the animals were fed. God put a bright star over the place where Jesus was born. It lit up the night, shining love and hope and joy to the world.

About that time, on a quiet hill outside of town, some shepherds were settling down for the night. And just when the smallest lamb began to snore, a great glowing angel appeared! The shepherds were shocked! The sheep were scared silly! Everyone was soooo afraid! The angel said, "Don't be afraid. We're here with good news! God's Son has been born—a Savior for you! They ran through the night, all the way to Bethlehem, to find the new baby—God's Son—lying in a manger. The shepherds were the first to welcome Baby Jesus and honor Him.

A few years later, a group of wise men came from far away to see Jesus. They had heard about a Savior coming, and God put His bright star in the sky to help them find their way to Jesus' house. They gave Jesus rare and precious gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh ... treasures for a King. But the wise men received a gift, too ... the greatest gift of all ... a Savior.*

(optional)

Because of Jesus, Mary and Joseph were changed forever, the shepherds were changed forever, and the wise men were changed forever. Everyone who receives the Savior's gift is changed forever, too.

I've received His gift. Have you?

*The child's Nativity story is taken from a book titled *Ella's Favorite Christmas Story*, written by Lisa Parker and illustrated by Mark Alexander and Abby Dearing.