

# Light Has Come

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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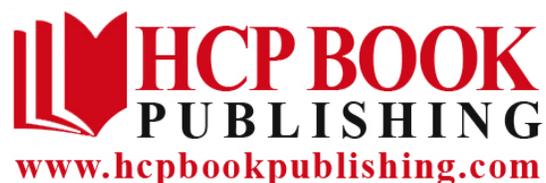
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## Characters

Modern Couple: Anna and Adam

0 BC Couple: Esther and Jacob

Voice

Shepard

## Setting

The stage is split in half creating two sides (stage left/stage right). Stage left will be set for 0 BC and showing life during the year Jesus was born.

Stage right will show modern times. Two married couples will permanently reside in their respective times/roles/sides. Action/Dialogue will alternate between the two sides. When one side is on “on” their side of the stage will be dark, allowing the audience to fully focus on the acting characters.

During the carol singing, there are two options. Characters can stay in their current positions to sing, or all can come out to the very front of the stage to sing and lead the congregation/audience. If possible, project the lyrics on a screen on the stage. If not, have a bulletin/program with lyrics, so it is easy to follow along. You can either have a piano accompany the carols or find instrumental digital tracks to play.

## The Story

Many years ago, prior to Jesus being born into this world, there was a culture of ungodliness that permeated society. While there were few godly people around, still holding on to the promise of a coming Messiah, most were just living out their lives in tradition, rituals and self-approved righteousness. They lived in darkness but could not perceive that truth.

We wish to compare then to now and see that our times are no more different than it was then. As some await the second coming of our Savior into this world, others have given up hope and men live as if there is nothing to look forward to beyond this life. The world is once again seeing dark days as once again traditions and rituals, independent of true righteousness, is readily embraced, and each man lives according to their own thoughts.

But one day, this world will once again witness the entrance of Jesus into this world. Light has indeed come.

## Play Details

**Length:** 45-60 Minutes

**Cast:** 3 Males, 2 Females, Voice

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Contemporary/ Biblical Drama

*Special Thanks to Amanda Zeiba for her help with this play. Amanda Zieba is a full-time teacher, a mom/wife always and a writer any minute she can squeeze in. She has written three children's chapter books (Orphan Train Riders Series: Charles' Christmas Gift, Joanna's Journey and Irish Strong William) a YA science fiction novel (Breaking the Surface) and a few plays. She strives to share her passion for words with others in any way possible.*

- Playwright Cleveland O. McLeish

# THE SCRIPT



## Scene 1

### LIGHTS UP

*Modern – Anna and Adam are driving in a car (created from a painted large box, or crates/chairs formed to represent a vehicle)*

*The couple is getting situated in the car (buckling seat belts, fiddling with GPS, adjusting mirrors, etc.)*

**Anna:** GPS says we will be arriving in 42 minutes.

**Adam:** *(sarcastically)* Hooray.

*Anna glares at him for a beat.*

**Anna:** Come on Adam, this is the holidays. We should be feeling festive.

**Adam:** We should, but I don't.

**Anna:** Do you think you could fake for the sake of our families. I mean, the holidays are a time when we are supposed to be nice to everyone, especially our family.

*Adam puts on a fake smile. Anna is not impressed.*

**Anna:** How would they feel if we come in all gloom and doom about Christmas?

**Adam:** Anna, I think when those rules were made, they hadn't met OUR families.

**Anna:** Well, I know they can be a little overbearing at times, and loud.

**Adam:** A little.

**Anna:** Okay, more than a little.

**Adam:** I can just hear my aunt now: *(exaggerated high pitched annoying voice)* Oh Adam. Stand up straight. What do you mean you don't want any of my green bean casserole?

**Anna:** Hey, that was pretty good. What about my grandpa? *(big booming voice)* Amy, Ashley, I mean Anna, yeah, you girl, move away from the TV so I can see the game.

And turn it up while you're there. I can't hear a dang thing with all you hooligans crowding up my house.

*They laugh a little and then fall into silence for a bit. Adam focuses on driving. Anna looks out the window.*

**Anna:** I could turn on some Christmas carols. That will brighten our holiday spirits.

**Adam:** If you want.

**Voice:** WBCO Radio. Astrologists predict the world is ending in twelve days. Story at 6.

**Voice 2:** This is Saul Saunders with the daily stock report. Markets drop drastically despite seasonal spending.

**Voice:** Thanks for joining Cynthia Chats. On our show tonight – cheaters and the lies they tell their spouses.

*Anna turns the radio off.*

**Anna:** Okay, maybe no carols. Such a depressing world. I miss the days when all that mattered at Christmas was Christ.

**Adam:** When was that?

*More silence as they continue to drive. Adam looks increasingly tense, muttering about traffic, tailgaters, etc.*

**Anna:** Gosh this traffic is ridiculous.

**Adam:** You're telling me. It will only get worse, the closer we get to the city.

**Anna:** Alright, I'm going to use my time to check over the gift list. Make sure I didn't forget anything at home, or worse, forget anyone.

**Adam:** How much did you spend on all those gifts anyway?

**Anna:** *(nervously)* It did get to be a lot. More than usual. But, we worked some extra shifts, so it should be alright.

**Adam:** Why does the present list get so big every year? What does anyone really need?

**Anna:** Its tradition.

**Adam:** An expensive one.

**Anna:** Speaking of extra shifts. Has there been any more news about the rumored layoffs?

**Adam:** No. I'm not sure if that's a good thing, or a bad thing. I guess we'll just have to wait it out.

**Anna:** Yeah, nothing you can do really, except pray for the best.

**Adam:** I agree, but it's hard ya know? Like we aren't already worried enough. The economy is bad, politicians – one is worse than the next, and it seems like the environment is going to collapse at any minute.

**Anna:** I know. I know. I just don't know what to do about it.

*More silence passes while they continue to drive.*

**Anna:** Oh, there it is. The GPS says to take the next exit on the left.

**Adam:** I'll do my best.

**Anna:** I'll help. *(Craning back to look out rear windows)* Okay, wait for it --- now, yes, one more lane, hooold it, merge annnd exit.

**Adam:** Whew.

**Anna:** You can say that again.

**Adam:** Whew.

**Anna:** Alright, just a few more stop lights and the Holiday Inn will be on our right. Oh, goodness, the parking lot looks really full, doesn't it? I hope our reservation went through when I booked it online. I don't know if we'd survive the holidays if we had to stay at my parents' house.

**Adam:** You can say that again.

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**Anna:** I don't even want to risk saying it again out loud. Let's go in and check.

**Adam:** Remember all that bad news we were talking about? It might get worse.

**Anna:** You know what pastor says.

**Adam:** Life is difficult.

**Anna:** So pray hard.

**Both:** and pray often.

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 2

### LIGHTS UP

*0 BC - A couple is traveling by foot.*

**Esther:** I saw a sign about an hour ago that said Bethlehem was just a few more miles. We should be there soon.

**Jacob:** On a normal day, yes, but not today. The census has people piling in from all corners of the world. I've seen swarms of locusts thinner than this crowd.

**Esther:** It is quite busy. Well, Caesar Augustus is the boss, and if the boss issues a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, then I guess we'd better follow it.

**Jacob:** It's hard to believe that everyone coming to Bethlehem is a descendant of David.

**Esther:** Looks like we have a few more relatives than we thought.

**Jacob:** *(sarcastically)* Very funny, but it could be worse. We could be that couple. Look. They only have one donkey. The woman is riding and the man is pulling the beast along. Can you imagine having to walk all the way?

**Esther:** Shh. Be nice. They could hear you.

**Jacob:** I doubt it. They are so far behind.

**All characters and congregation sing:** O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Jacob:** Finally. Arrived at last. Now, we just have to find an inn, which might be harder than we thought.

**Esther:** There are people everywhere. Some of them aren't even moving. Like that guy, just standing on the corner. What is he saying?

**Jacob:** I can't hear him, but I can guess. Probably another prophet, telling us all to turn from our evil ways. *(mimicking/mock tone)* The end of the world is coming. Turn away from your false gods.

**Esther:** Enough, Jacob. *(giggling)*

**Jacob:** *(continuing in mocking tone)* Renounce evil, save yourselves. The Savior is coming. Can you believe that? If He was coming, He would have been here already.

**Esther:** I'd like to believe He is still coming. We need one. Just look around this place. So many hungry people. Corrupted rulers, plagues, prophecies of destruction. It's a scary world. Maybe a savior is just the thing to save us.

**Jacob:** Well, He can show up at any time in my opinion.

**Esther:** Look. Let's try that Inn over there. *(pointing)*

**Jacob:** You stay here with the animals. I will go in and check. *(walks off stage)*

*Esther stays seated and after a few moments begins looking bored. She checks her nails, whistles a song, and finally pulls out a magazine from the folds of her traveling cloak. Jacob walks out a few moments later.*

**Jacob:** Well, we are in luck, but just barely. We got the last room.

**Esther:** Ah. Amazing. Now, let's get in before anyone can steal it from us. All these people around make me nervous. I was just reading about all the looting that happened here last month. *(shaking magazine out, pointing to an article)* And have you heard the rumors about King Herod? Everywhere, bad news.

**Jacob:** Just so long as it doesn't happen to us. Now let's get inside.

**LIGHTS OUT**

### Scene 3

#### **LIGHTS UP**

*Modern: Anna and Adam are unpacking their things in a room and settling in as they talk. They should each carry a bag or suitcase and be wearing/hanging up winter coats/hats/etc.*

**Adam:** The last room. What good luck.

**Anna:** That's one way of looking at it. I can't believe they lost our reservation.

**Adam:** Done and over with now. Let's just rest and clean up a bit before we head over to good ol' grandpa's for dinner.

**Anna:** Good idea. I think I'll flip on the news for a while.

*Anna turns on the TV.*

**Voice:** *(News Anchor on TV)* New studies report that poverty is at an all-time high, which makes holiday shopping after dark a dangerous activity. Remember to lock your car doors, ladies, and gentlemen, and walk quickly from store to store. The city police department cited yesterday that theft rates are rising.

**Anna:** How horrible. Did you lock the doors on the car, Adam?

**Adam:** Yes, I did, but it makes me nervous to leave all those presents out there now that I've heard that report.

**Voice:** *(News Anchor on TV)* Also, soup kitchen lines have been stretching around the block this holiday season. More donations are being requested at both the 38<sup>th</sup> St. Shelter as well as the Salvation Army.

**Adam:** I heard the same thing from our newscasters back home. Hard to have a happy Christmas with news like that around, isn't it?

**Anna:** Yeah, it is. I wish there was something we could do.

**Adam:** Like what? We give to our church. We help out random homeless people when we see them. We even donated money to my work's Christmas charity this year. What more could we do on Christmas Eve? Our schedule is booked.

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**Anna:** I don't know, but I feel like sitting in a hotel room, or going to stuff our faces at a family dinner isn't really the right answer.

**Adam:** I know what you mean. *(pause) (seriously)* But I still don't know what to do.

*They turn to look back at the TV where more bad news is being broadcasted.*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 4

### LIGHTS UP

*0 BC: Esther and Jacob walk wearily into the room and collapse on the bed.*

**Esther:** What a long and tiring trip.

**Jacob:** Agreed.

**Esther:** Guess we might as well unpack. *(They struggle to stand and start settling into the room).*

**Jacob:** I'm going to open up this window and get some fresh air blowing through here. *(opens the window and stare out for a beat)* Oh my gosh, Esther, look.

**Esther:** What is it?

**Jacob:** That couple we saw on the road. They are JUST getting here.

**Esther:** *(stands beside Jacob)* Oh look. She is pregnant. I didn't see that before, they were so far behind us. I hope they find a room.

**Jacob:** Don't count on it.

*Esther and Jacob continue to unpack, but Esther is spending more and more time looking out the window. Play this up comically. Suspiciously peeking, fluffing the curtains, etc.*

**Jacob:** Esther, what are you doing hovering by the window? You are blocking the breeze.

**Esther:** Ah, nothing, I was just, Oh no, Jacob. There was no room. They are walking away.

**Jacob:** Who?

**Esther:** The couple. On the donkey. From the road.

**Jacob:** What are they going to do?

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**Esther:** I don't know. I just feel so awful. It is like a camel crash. I want to look away, but I can't.

*Jacob joins her at the window to watch.*

**Jacob:** Where are they going?

**Esther:** To that barn. Do you think they are going to sleep there?

**Jacob:** I don't know what other choice they have.

**Esther:** Oh goodness, I hope she doesn't have that baby tonight.

**Jacob:** I'm sure she'd agree. Now come away from the window before they see us staring.

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 5

### **LIGHTS UP**

*Modern – Anna and Adam are laughing and full of energy as they rush up to their car and get inside. They continue to giggle for a minute and then Adam puts the key in the ignition and pretends to back the car out of the driveway and drive away.*

**Anna:** *(breathlessly from laughing)* Did you see their faces?

**Adam:** Are you kidding? They were priceless. I wish you had your camera out. I guess I will just have to keep the image in my head, for a long time.

**Anna:** I didn't think I'd ever see our family one hundred percent speechless. Did you?

**Adam:** Never.

**Anna:** When you stood up in the middle of dinner and said you had an announcement, I had no idea what was going to come out of your mouth.

**Adam:** To be honest, neither did I, but I just couldn't stand it anymore. I just felt like I had to do something or I was going to burst.

**Anna:** *(mimicking Adam's voice)* Umm, excuse me. Anna and I have somewhere else we need to be, ah, right now. Uncle, please pass that roll basket this way, and Grandma you wouldn't mind packing up the roast would you?

**Adam:** I thought she was going to fall out of her chair.

**Anna:** I think she thought her hearing aids were broken.

**Both:** *(laughing)*

**Adam:** And then we just packed it all up and walked out the door.

**Anna:** And the presents too. I thought I was going to have to pry my cousin's fingers off the wrapping paper one by one.

**Adam:** It was crazy. But fun. And crazy. I still can't believe we did that.

**Anna:** Do you think the people at the 38<sup>th</sup> Street shelter will be just as surprised?

**Adam:** I hope so. But only in a good way. I can't wait to see THEIR faces when we pull up with a carload of food and presents.

**Anna:** I have never loved you more.

**Adam:** This is going to be the best Christmas ever. Now, get out that GPS and let's see if we can get through this city traffic and deliver our sleigh full of goodies.

**Anna:** You got it.

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 6

### LIGHTS UP

*0 BC – Jacob and Esther are sitting in their rooms, restless. Jacob is pacing. Esther is seated next to the window sill, chewing on her nails.*

**Esther:** I know we don't have to report for registration until tomorrow, but I don't know if I can sit still in this room any longer. It is dark and probably crowded out there, but I miss the open sky of home.

**Jacob:** I know what you mean. Do you want to go for a walk?

**Esther:** I'd like that. Let me get my shawl.

*They mime walking out of their room, and walking along a street holding hands.*

**Jacob:** Esther, look. *(pointing)*

**Esther:** Oh my. What a sight. A shooting star.

**Jacob:** Maybe even something bigger than that. A comet? It is so bright.

**Esther:** *(covering her eyes)* It is so beautiful.

**Jacob:** Look. There is a crowd of people up on the hill. Maybe they will know what is happening. Let's go ask.

*Jacob and Esther walk over to the side of the stage and meet with Shepard.*

**Jacob:** Excuse me, sir, do you know what is happening here?

**Shepard:** *(breathless and excited)* It is as the prophets have said. The Savior is born. An angel just spoke to us, *(pointing)* there, on the hill. He said, well, they said, there were hundreds of them, they said: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

**Esther:** Amazing.

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**Shepard:** We're going there now. Come with us to meet the Savior?

*Jacob and Esther look at each other questioningly.*

**Jacob:** This is something I've got to see for myself.

**Esther:** I can't imagine wanting to be anywhere else.

**Shepard:** Then come on. Let's go.

**All characters and congregation sing:** The First Noel

**Jacob:** *(looking up at the star)* Why did it stop here? Why are we stopping in front of our inn?

**Esther:** Oh Jacob. Look. It's the couple from the road. She had the baby. In a barn.

**Jacob:** The Savior was born in a barn?

**Esther:** That's what it looks like. How strange.

**All characters and congregation sing:** Away in a Manger.

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 7

### LIGHTS UP

*Modern – Anna and Adam return to their car again. They sit down and begin talking, but do not start driving.*

**Adam:** That was amazing.

**Anna:** You can say that again.

**Adam:** That was amazing. Their faces, so dirty, so hungry. But when we walked in, carrying all that stuff, their eyes just lit up.

**Anna:** For us, it would have just been another meal, another sweater. I would have eaten and never given another thought to the meal, but now, I'll have their faces in my memory forever.

**Adam:** And their stories. This one family I talked to had been evicted from their apartment because they couldn't pay their rent. Their medical bills were through the roof after the husband had gotten in a car accident. He couldn't work, and the wife didn't make enough to make ends meet. Their poor children looked half frozen. When I gave them the presents we had bought for our nieces and nephews, he told me it was the first time that he could remember his kids had something new from a store.

**Anna:** A woman I talked to was also having a hard time. Her parents had passed away many years ago, both around the holidays. She was an only child and never married. She wasn't at the shelter for the free food. She was there to volunteer and to be around people who, like her, were struggling to enjoy the spirit of Christmas. She was so lonely. It broke my heart.

**Adam:** Maybe we should make this our new Christmas tradition.

**Anna:** I'd like that.

**Adam:** Promise me we'll come back every year.

**Anna:** I promise. And maybe we can come back even more than just once a year.

**Adam:** It's a deal. *(They shake hands and then hug)* Hey, what's that sound?

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**Anna:** *(rolls down her window and listens outside)* Bells. I hear bells.

**Adam:** Why so late?

**Anna:** It's 12:00. It must be midnight mass. *(long pause)* Do you want to go?

**Adam:** Yes, it will be the perfect ending to our perfect holiday.

**Anna:** Another new tradition to start.

**Adam:** We've saved their Christmas *(pointing back behind the car to the shelter)*, now let's go see if He *(pointing up)* can save us.

**Anna:** Now that I think about it, Jesus is the only thing that has been missing from our holiday celebrations so far.

**Adam:** Seems kind of backward doesn't it?

**Anna:** It does, but I think He's been in our hearts, helping us make the right choices today, lighting our path.

**Adam:** I agree, He has been in our hearts, now let's go put Him in our minds.

**All characters and congregation sing:** Silent Night

**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 8

### LIGHTS UP

*0 BC – Jacob and Esther are standing outside the Manger observing all that is happening.*

**Esther:** It's going to be different now. I can just feel it.

**Jacob:** All because of a little Baby?

**Esther:** It is. Maybe the prophets and the Shepherds and the angels were right. You'll see.

**Jacob:** Come on, Esther. It is late. Tomorrow we must register. We should go back to the inn and get to sleep.

**Esther:** Alright. I will come, but first, let us bow and pray. I will remember this night always. The night when our Savior was born, the One who will take away our sins and save us from evil.

**Jacob:** Amen.

**Esther:** I know you said it was time to go home, but we can't keep this news to ourselves. Come on; we have to go tell someone.

**Jacob:** But we don't know anyone here.

**Esther:** I already told you that everyone in town is descended from David. They're family, Jacob. We can't keep this good news from them.

**Jacob:** Ugh. Women! You will invent any reason to spread a little gossip.

**Esther:** *(coaxing)* Come on, Jacob, you know you want to.

**Jacob:** *(excited) (grabbing Esther's hand)* You're right. I do. Let's go. But what do we tell them?

**Esther:** We tell them that Light has come.

**All characters and congregation sing:** O Come All Ye Faithful

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**LIGHTS OUT**

## Scene 9

### LIGHTS UP

*Modern - A sign in the front of the stage announces that it is five years later.  
Anna is sitting in the front seat of the car. Adam is near the trunk.*

**Anna:** Are you ready, Adam?

**Adam:** I am just packing the last of the presents. How much did you spend this year?

**Anna:** *(wincing a little)* Ummmm, a lot more than last year.

**Adam:** Good. Those extra shifts were totally worth it. I can't wait to get over to the shelter and make our special delivery. Did you call your parents?

**Anna:** *(haltingly)* Yeeeessss.

**Adam:** *(guiltily)* Are they mad? I mean, that we are ditching family Christmas --- again?

**Anna:** We aren't.

**Adam:** Anna. Enough. We are going to the shelter. We made a promise to each other.

**Anna:** I know. We are going. And so are they.

**Adam:** What?

**Anna:** They said it was important to them to be with us on Christmas. I told them, that it was important to us to continue our tradition of giving at the shelter. Then she asked if she could come along.

**Adam:** Amazing. Just think. If we never walked out on that silly dinner five years ago, these good things never would have happened. Thanks be to God.

**Anna:** Indeed. Now let's go. We want to have enough time at the shelter before we head over to midnight mass.

### LIGHTS OUT

## Scene 10

### LIGHTS UP

*All characters are standing in the front of the stage.*

**Anna:** If you watch the news, read a newspaper or even just look around you, it seems like bad things are happening everywhere. There are wars. People are sick and hungry. Families are fighting. Some will tell you, that there's nothing we can do to reverse it. Society is in a downward spiral, and we can't do anything about it. But they are wrong.

**Esther:** Before Jesus was born, before Light came into this world, life was pretty bad for people back then too. People followed false gods and treated each other poorly. They didn't know who to turn to for help.

**Adam:** But luckily for us, Jesus was born. And He did come to Earth to save us from our sins. He taught us how to treat others and follow God. He taught us how to pray and that everything is possible, if we ask Him to help us.

**Jacob:** The Christmas season is the perfect time to remember His promises to us and renew our faith and strength in Him. Even though times may seem bad now, remember they were bad before and, with Jesus' help, we can overcome any obstacle in our way. He came to us once as a baby, He tabernacled with us through His Spirit, and He promised to return in the fullness of time. Are you ready?

**All characters and congregation sing:** Joy to the World

### LIGHTS OUT