

CHRIST in CHRISTmas

The Original Musical Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

Copyright © 2018. The Heart of a Christian Playwright.

All Rights Reserved.

Cleveland O. McLeish/The Heart of a Christian Playwright have asserted the right to be identified as the Author of this work.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the expressed permission of Cleveland O. McLeish. Professional Rights, Amateur Rights, Fringe Rights, and Education Rights are all available through the Heart of a Christian Playwright. Please request permission in writing to cleveland.mcleish@gmail.com. The Author can be reached at cleveland@christianplaywright.org

All rights whatsoever in the play are strictly reserved. Requests to reproduce the text in whole or in part should be addressed to the Publisher/Author.

You have ONE free license to do ONE free Performance with the purchase of this book. You are NOT ALLOWED to make copies of this book, but you can purchase additional copies from Amazon, or you can purchase a digital version from the Website (www.christianplaywright.org) to make printed copies. For multiple performance and/or performances where tickets are sold, or there is an admission cost, please contact us to discuss royalties.

Publication of this play indicates its availability for performance.

ISBN-13: 978-1724537775 (paperback available on amazon.com)

ISBN-10: 1724537776

Published by:

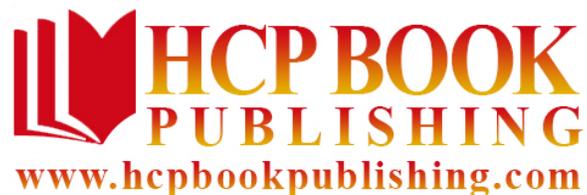


Table of Contents

Characters	4
Setting	5
The Story	6
Play Details	7
Scene 1	9
Scene 2	16
Scene 3	23
Scene 4	29
Scene 5	33

Characters

Grandma: Older woman, 55-75 years old. Sassy, loud, no-nonsense

Grandpa: Older man 60-70 years old. Sassy, fun, inventive, sincere

Chelsea: Girl, about 6-8 years old. Mischievous. Sister to Andrew and Martin

Martin: Boy, about 9-10 years old. Fun, adventurous. Brother to Chelsea and Andrew

Andrew: Boy, about 12. Stubborn, “know-it-all” Older brother of Martin and Chelsea

Wise Man 1: Male, 40’s

Wise Man 2: Male, 30’s

Wise Man 3: Male, 20’s

Little Boy: Boy, about 8-10 years old. Played by the same actor as Martin

Donkey: Older male/female. Wise.

Cow: Older female. Stubborn, caring, motherly

Rooster: Male, loud, hot-headed

Sheep: Female. Played by the same actor as Chelsea

Baby Chicks: Male/female non- speaking role for younger children

Joseph: Man, Late 20’s-30’s

Mary: Woman, 20’s-30’s

Raphael: Teenager, 14-20

Uriel: Man, age 20-30’s

Sariel: Woman, age 20’s-30’s

Gabriel: Boy Age 10-13. Played by the same actor as Andrew

Setting

The stage features a Christmas Tree with presents underneath that serves as a centerpiece.

Scenes are otherwise bare, except for necessary props and specified scene dressings.

The Characters should enter from different parts of the stage.

The Story

A group of children who are brought up in a home that doesn't discuss Christmas, it's meaning, or anything Bible related is sent to spend the holidays with their grandparents.

It becomes evident to the elderly couple that their grandchildren have no idea what the reason for the season is. They embark on the task of opening up their grandchildren's understanding of the real meaning of Christmas.

This play is uniquely crafted, so while different aspects of the Christmas story is being told from various perspectives, the characters, in contemporary times, will role-play some of the different characters in the story. This is a humorous, contemporary retelling of the story we all know and love.

Play Details

Length: 60 Minutes

Cast: 6 Males, 3 Females, 2 Girls, 5 Boys, Plus Extras.

Audience: Children, Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

THE SCRIPT



Scene 1

Setting: Family Living Room

LIGHTS UP

There is a large Christmas tree in the center of the stage with lots of presents scattered around it.

Chelsea enters in her pajamas and slowly creeps towards the presents, trying not to make a sound. She hears the bell on the clock toll as it reveals it to be 3 o'clock in the morning. She is startled by the sound, but once realizing what it is, she continues towards the wrapped gifts.

She sits down next to them and grabs one, shaking it, trying to figure out what's inside.

She hears someone coming and quickly hides behind the tree.

Martin enters.

MARTIN: Santa? Is that you?

He looks around the room but doesn't see anything, as Chelsea still hides. As he starts to head towards the presents to examine them, Chelsea decides to sneak up on him.

He walks around one side of the tree, she creeps around and sneaks up on him from behind, finally getting close to his ear.

CHELSEA: Boo!

Martin jumps

MARTIN: AHHHH!

Chelsea laughs

CHELSEA: I scared you good that time.

MARTIN: What are you doing down here?

CHELSEA: What are YOU doing down here?

MARTIN: I asked you first.

CHELSEA: I asked you second.

Pause.

CHELSEA: Mom and Dad said Santa only comes when you're sleeping.

MARTIN: Well, I was sleeping but I thought I heard reindeer on the roof and, I just wanted to see if he had come yet (*looking at presents*) and boy did he ever.

CHELSEA: So, are you thinking what I am thinking?

MARTIN: (*excitedly*) Oh yeah.

Chelsea grabs one of the presents hungrily.

CHELSEA: We can just take a quick peek at one. We can rewrap it and then act surprised in the morning.

Pause.

MARTIN: I think they will be able to tell.

CHELSEA: How?

MARTIN: I don't know, okay, maybe just one.

They both yank at the present but then hear a noise offstage.

MARTIN: Someone's coming. Hide. Quick.

They drop the present and hide behind the tree.

Andrew enters carrying a plate of cookies. He trips over the present left in the middle of the floor but manages to catch himself, still holding the cookies.

ANDREW: Hmm, I wonder how this got here. (*looks around suspiciously*) Hello? Is anyone there?

He begins to look around the tree as Martin had done before.

Chelsea giggles quietly and nudges Martin, pointing at Andrew. Martin nods his head, and they both sneak up on Andrew.

MARTIN and CHELSEA: BOOOOO!

ANDREW: AHHHHH!

Andrew, startled, tosses cookies into the air.

Martin and Chelsea laugh.

MARTIN: We got you!

ANDREW: What are you two doing? Why aren't you both in bed?

CHELSEA: Aww, shucks, Andrew, we were just looking to see if Santa came yet.

MARTIN: Yeah. We wanted to look at the presents, and why are you getting on our cases, aren't you out of bed too?

ANDREW: Unlike you two "kids," I was actually leaving cookies for Santa. All that climbing up and down chimneys can work up quite the appetite you know, and maybe I was gonna take a quick peek to see which presents were mine.

CHELSEA: Ah-HA. I knew it.

GRANDMA: (*Offstage*) What's all that racket down there? Jason, wake up! Get your baseball bat.

ANDREW: Oh no! We woke up Grandma.

MARTIN: Oh, she's gonna be mad.

ANDREW: Quick, behind the tree.

The three of them hide behind the tree.

Grandpa enters cautiously carrying a baseball bat.

GRANDPA: Annabelle, are you sure you heard something? I was in the middle of this wonderful dream. Besides, no one would break into a house on Christmas Eve.

GRANDMA: (*Offstage*) Are you crazy? That's the perfect time for someone to break in. Just take a look around real quick and make sure everything is safe. If you find anyone, use the bat first then ask questions later.

The kids start to get nervous.

GRANDPA: Okay.

He creeps across the stage and notices the cookies on the floor.

He calls back to Grandma.

GRANDPA: Annabelle, you might be right. There are cookies on the floor. Maybe Santa is the one who broke in. He wouldn't use the door. He comes down the chimney you know. But I am just waiting to see something move to start clobbering.

The kids remain perfectly still.

GRANDMA: *(Offstage)* Keep looking!

GRANDPA: Oh, all right.

The three kids decide to creep around the tree as he goes looking around the other way.

As he comes back around, they jump out with hands in the air.

ANDREW, CHELSEA, MARTIN: We surrender.

Grandpa screams and hits the Christmas tree with the baseball bat.

GRANDPA: Oh, my word! *(Laughing)* You kids will be the death of me. What on Earth are you children doing down here this time of night?

Grandma enters running frantically.

GRANDMA: I'm coming, Jason. I'll get 'em for you. I -- *(She notices Grandpa and the kids laughing)* Oh I should have known it was you little rascals down here causing mischief. Don't you know what time it is? What's the matter? Christmas excitement a bit too much for you this year?

CHELSEA: We just wanted to take a quick look at our presents, Grandma, that's all.

ANDREW: And put out some cookies for Santa of course.

Looks around at the fallen cookies.

ANDREW: Didn't quite work out the way I planned though.

GRANDMA: MMMhMM, well you nearly gave your dear old Grandma a heart attack with all that noise. Kids these days can't wait for nothing. Why, the best things in life are worth waiting for.

GRANDPA: Oh, Annabelle, even you must remember being overly excited for Christmas morning.

GRANDMA: Yes, but presents aren't everything. This time of year, we are more concerned with what kind of gifts we are getting, instead of the gifts we are giving.

MARTIN: But the presents are the best part.

CHELSEA: Yeah, isn't that what Christmas is all about?

GRANDMA: Not at all, Chelsea. Christmas is about so much more than presents.

ANDREW: Yeah, like what?

GRANDPA: Your Grandma's right, children. Do you even know why we give each other gifts on Christmas?

ANDREW: Um, because that's what Santa did?

MARTIN: Because the Christmas Tree looks too boring without them?

CHELSEA: Because we are trying to fuel a consumerist economy with items we don't need, causing a slow sense of dissatisfaction and greed?

EVERYONE: What?!

CHELSEA: I read that in an article recently.

GRANDMA: Girl, talk English, so we understand what you saying.

Chelsea shrugs.

CHELSEA: I also heard it on TV.

GRANDPA: Listen, we give gifts because that's what happened at the first Christmas there ever was.

MARTIN: You mean the one Santa started?

Pause. Grandma stares blankly at Martin.

GRANDMA: No, my dear child. Christmas started long before Santa Claus even existed.

ANDREW: Before Santa? But I thought he was the one who started it in the first place.

GRANDMA: What have your parents been teaching you?

Pause.

GRANDMA: We may celebrate Christmas with stories of Santa Claus, but the real story of Christmas goes back over 2000 years ago with an even bigger gift than Santa Claus could ever bring.

CHELSEA: Like a million dollars?

GRANDMA: Nope. Bigger than that.

MARTIN: A billion dollars?

GRANDMA: Not even close.

MARTIN: A trillion dollars?

GRANDMA: (*annoyed*) It was not money.

GRANDPA: Children, this is the kind of gift that people traveled hundreds of miles to receive. They spent weeks walking to find it. In fact, did you children know I used to work as a shopkeeper? I often imagined myself selling some supplies to a few of those travelers on their way to get this gift a long time ago. Do you want to hear about it?

CHELSEA, MARTIN, ANDREW: Yes. Okay. Yay.

GRANDMA: Oh, here he goes with his stories again. I'd better put the kettle on. This could take all night.

Grandma exits as the children gather around Grandpa.

GRANDPA: Now, first you must imagine a place far away and a time long ago.

MARTIN: Like Start Trek, the Final Frontier?

GRANDPA: Not exactly. A time when people were more connected to the land and to God because they had less things around to distract them.

ANDREW: Oh, that I can't imagine.

CHELSEA: God? What's God?

GRANDPA: That's part of the story, Chelsea, you'll find out. You know, back then you could see God? Even feel God touching your shoulder? A lot better than you can right now anyway. In fact, some folks were even able to hear God speak to them. That was the time God chose to send us the greatest gift of them all.

(Song # 1 – For these song slots, you can choose to use any song that you deem appropriate for each scene. You can also do the Song as a Duet, Quartet, Mime, Dance, Etc)

(It is loosely implied that the children are acting out the stories as the Grandparents tell them. There should be a large box with costumes in it that they try on as they play during this song)

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 2

Setting: Department Store

LIGHTS UP

Grandpa narrates towards the audience, but otherwise talks directly to the other characters.

The stage has one table and one large shelf with grocery items strewn on the floor and a pricing gun next to the items.

GRANDPA: So, there I was, just minding my own business and trying to stock the shelves. Back then we didn't have all those fancy robot things and had to do everything by hand. Yep those were the days, but anyways, there I was (*he sits down next to the shelf and begins to put items on the shelves*) pricing and shelving, pricing and shelving. You know, when you get into the rhythm of it, it was more like a dance (*he begins to dance with the price gun and items a bit*) Pricing. Shelving. Pric----zing. Shelvvv-ing. But there wasn't much else to do, so we had to pass the time somehow. Now --- where was I? Oh yes, stocking (*he continues to dance, price and shelf items*)

WISEMAN 1 enters and begins looking around as if he is searching for something very specific.

He notices Grandpa stocking the shelves. At this point, Grandpa is oblivious to the fact that someone else is in the room and starts to really get into his pricing/shelving song and dance.

Grandpa closes his eyes and stands up to dance around the store, almost knocking into the Wiseman. The Wiseman is startled by this behavior and tries to get the attention of Grandpa, who continues to dance and sing "Pricing. Shelving."

This continues until Grandpa leaps into the center of the stage and strikes a dramatic pose as he finishes his song.

WISEMAN 1: Um, Do you work here?

Grandpa is startled, embarrassed.

GRANDPA: What do you think?

WISEMAN 1: Well, I didn't want to make any assumptions. For all I know, you're just some guy who loves to sing about price guns.

GRANDPA: What can I help you with today, sir?

WISEMAN 1: Well, I'm looking for a gift of sorts. Something really special. I don't really know what to get though.

GRANDPA: Who's the gift for?

WISEMAN 1: Well, I'm not quite sure.

GRANDPA: I understand, I understand. One of those white elephant gifts, eh? I don't think you're supposed to spend much on those things, so please let me direct you to our discount area.

WISEMAN 1: Oh no, it's not one of those kinds of gifts. I don't know who the gift is for, because I haven't met the person I am giving the gift to, yet. But I really really want to impress them. Any suggestions?

GRANDPA: Well, if I were you, I'd say that you really can't go wrong with a little bit of gold. A brick of gold will impress just about anyone.

WISEMAN 1: Really?

GRANDPA: Yep. Here, why don't you check out our gold brick display.

He leads the Wiseman to a shelf with three gold bricks, and Wiseman begins to examine them.

GRANDPA: Finest gold this side of the Mediterranean.

WISEMAN 1: They're beautiful.

GRANDPA: They most certainly are, and not too cheap to come by. I'm telling ya, if you really wanna impress, this is the way to go.

WISEMAN 1: Ok. I'll take it. Is this all you have?

GRANDPA: Just these three bricks.

WISEMAN 1: That's perfect. My friends need to bring gifts too. I'll take all three.

GRANDPA: Fantastic. I'll ring ya up at the register.

Grandpa brings the bricks to the table, and rings them up.

GRANDPA: Say, sorry for asking, but you must be pretty well off to be able to afford three gold bricks. What sort of business are you in?

WISEMAN 1: My friends and I are in the wise business.

GRANDPA: You don't say? I always wanted to get into that sort of profession, but I never seemed to have the right qualifications. Well, here ya go sir. Enjoy. Would you like a bag?

WISEMAN 1: No thanks, I've got a bag on my camel outside. Thank you.

He exits the grocery store and stands to the side of the stage, waiting.

GRANDPA: Have a terrific day. Hmm, what a nice man (*turns towards the audience and speaks to them*) Little did I know that the nice man and his gifts were going to be remembered for all of history. But, we'll get to that a bit later.

He rests his shoulders on the table and watches the rest of the scene unfold.

Wiseman 2 and Wiseman 3 enter.

WISEMAN 3: Hey, there you are. So, did you get the gifts?

WISEMAN 1: Sure did. Look. (*holds the bricks out*) Gold bricks.

WISEMAN 2: Aww, everybody gives gold bricks. He'll probably get a ton of 'em. Why couldn't you have been a bit more original?

WISEMAN 1: The man at the store said we couldn't go wrong with a gift like this and besides, if He's the King of kings, why shouldn't He have as much gold and riches as possible?

WISEMAN 2: Bah. I think even silver would have been a bit less obvious, but okay. It's better than nothing, I suppose.

WISEMAN 3: Oh boy, I can't wait until we get to actually see Him. What do you think He'll look like?

WISEMAN 2: I bet He's got a crown the size of a boulder. It will be so big, He can barely wear it on His head.

WISEMAN 1: Yeah, and robes made of the finest silk.

WISEMAN 3: I bet He can command the ocean with His little finger.

WISEMAN 2: Or move mountains with a whistle. Maybe even walk across water as though it is land.

WISEMAN 3: I'd like to see that.

(Song # 2)

(During this song, A BOY enters and tries to steal from their bags the entire time. At the end of the song, the Three Wise Men discover what the Boy has been doing)

WISEMAN 2: Get him.

The three Wisemen grab the boy before he gets a chance to run away.

BOY: Oh please, good sirs, I meant you no harm. I was just--

WISEMAN 3: Looking to steal some of our treasures from us, you little thief. What is the meaning of this? Don't you see we are travelers? We need our supplies for our journey.

BOY: I know, but please understand I was just looking for some food. I have none to eat, and I am too young to find work. My father died last year, and my mother has been trying to take care of my sisters and me on her own. Please, anything you can spare. I am sorry I meant to steal, but no one ever gives away food willingly around here.

WISEMAN 1: All right, boy. *(They let him go)* Let's see what we've got.

WISEMAN 2: You're not going to believe that story, are you?

WISEMAN 1: If he is trying to steal, he must be in a difficult situation. We must have something we can give him.

He searches through his bags and finally pulls out two gold bricks. He looks at them, and then at the Boy.

WISEMAN 2: Don't you dare!

WISEMAN 1: We have three of them, don't we?

WISEMAN 3: But those gifts are for the Messiah. How could we give them away to this child? Who knows if he would even be able to use them.

WISEMAN 1: You said so yourself, He is probably getting a ton of gold bricks, and this kid probably won't see another one for his entire life. We can spare it. We'll find something else for the Messiah. If He is who we've been told He is, I'm sure He will understand.

WISEMAN 3: Very well, but I think you're crazy.

WISEMAN 2: He has definitely lost his mind, but at least we can get a more original gift instead.

Wiseman 1 turns towards the Boy and hands him the bricks.

WISEMAN 1: Here you go, Boy. I'm sure you need these more than we do.

The Boy's face lights up.

BOY: For me? Really? For me? Oh, sir, I don't know what to say.

WISEMAN 2: Say "thank you."

BOY: THANK YOU so much. I am going to take it home to show my mom right now.

He starts to run off stage.

WISEMAN 3: Don't stop until you get there. There are lots of thieves around these parts.

BOY: Oh, I won't. I won't!

He exits.

Wiseman 3 sighs.

WISEMAN 3: Okay, genius, now what are we going to do for another gift?

WISEMAN 1: Don't you see? We just gave a gift. That boy and his family will be able to survive on that for years.

WISEMAN 2: Well that's just terrific, but it doesn't change the fact that we need to find two more gifts, and still have a hundred miles to go before getting to our destination. Where is that shop you were just at?

WISEMAN 1: Just over there. I think they're still open.

WISEMAN 3: Well, what are we waiting for? Let's go.

WISEMAN 1: Watch out for the shopkeeper though. He's really --- dancy.

The Wisemen walk over to the shop where Grandpa is still sitting and watching, humming a bit.

GRANDPA: Back already, huh?

WISEMAN 3: Do you have any more gold bricks?

GRANDPA: No, sir. I sold them all to your friend over there, but may I interest you in some lovely Frankincense? What about some Myrrh? If you're looking to impress someone, these items are your best bet. *(turns towards the audience as Wisemen exit)* And that, children, is how I showed those Wisemen what a true gift is. None of those men thought for a second about getting something in return, and just gave and gave, even when they felt they could not do so.

Chelsea enters.

CHELSEA: Grandpa, you have a crazy imagination.

GRANDPA: So I have been told.

CHELSEA: But Grandpa. I thought you were going to explain to me who God is. And what about all that stuff the Wisemen were talking about? Who were they traveling to visit anyway? I still don't think I understand what the true meaning of Christmas is.

Grandma, holding a teacup, enters from the other side of the stage and walks up to Grandpa.

GRANDMA: Maybe your ol' Grandpa was just scratching the surface with his overactive imagination, Chelsea honey, but don't worry. Your Grammy can explain everything to you. What your Grandpa here doesn't tell you is that the person those Wisemen were going to see was just a tiny baby.

Martin enters, stands next to Chelsea.

MARTIN: A BABY? But I thought He was supposed to be this huge king. How could He have been a baby? I'm so confused.

GRANDMA: And that's not the best part. That little baby wasn't even born in a castle or anything. He was born in a stable.

CHELSEA: What's a stable?

Andrew enters, stands next to Chelsea and Martin.

ANDREW: You don't know what 'stable' means? *(clears his throat)* According to the dictionary, 'stable' is the opposite of 'rickety,' 'wobbly' and 'unbalanced.' Right Grandma?

GRANDMA: Well ---

GRANDPA: That's right, but that's not the kind of stable we're talking about here. In this story, a 'stable' is another word for a barn.

ANDREW, CHELSEA, MARTIN: OOOOOHHHH.

CHELSEA: So, a king was born in a barn?

GRANDMA: Yep.

ANDREW: That's just terrible.

CHRIST in CHRISTmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

GRANDPA: And that's not the best part.

GRANDMA: Oh brother, here he goes again.

GRANDPA: There were all sorts of animals in that barn, and they were just as puzzled as you are.

MARTIN: I am stuck at a King being born in a barn. Doesn't make any sense.

GRANDPA: Let's pay them a visit and see.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 3

Setting: Barn

LIGHTS UP

Donkey and Cow enter and sit next to each other.

Rooster and Chicks are sleeping in the corner.

DONKEY: Oh, what a day. These old hooves ain't what they used to be, I'll tell ya that.

COW: Oh, you say that every night. At least you get to leave the barn. What about me, huh? I just get to wait around here all day for the farmer to milk me. Do you know how uncomfortable it is to have a milkshake brewing inside of you all day long?

DONKEY: With hooves like these, I'd take your milkshake any day.

COW: Be careful what you wish for. Who knows, donkey milk may be the rage next year.

Donkey and Cow give each other snarky looks.

DONKEY: That's never gonna happen.

COW: You just wait on see.

DONKEY: Well, at any rate, I'm happy to be home so I can get a little peace and quiet.

COW: Now that is something we both can agree on.

Donkey and Cow settle in and begin to close their eyes to sleep.

Sheep enters, frantic and excited.

SHEEP: He's coming. He's coming!

Donkey and Cow jump up, startled.

Rooster wakes up and crows loudly before darting around the stage frantically until Sheep, Rooster, and Chicks are all chaotically rushing about the stage making animal sounds loudly.

DONKEY: Sheep. What are you doing?

COW: Rooster. Chicks, It's okay. Settle down for a minute.

DONKEY: That's enough. All of you calm down.

Cow moos loudly, causing the other animals to stop in their tracks.

DONKEY: Thank you, Cow. Now, Sheep, what is going on? Why are you running in here this late at night all crazy and loud?

ROOSTER: Yeah, I thought I had overslept, and the sun had already come out. Do you realize my life is at stake if I take the morning off?

SHEEP: (*Panting, catching breath*) I'm sorry, but I couldn't waste a second. He's coming.

ROOSTER: Who's coming?

SHEEP: I heard the word from a Sheep coming from a flock heading this way. They say their shepherd is leading them to meet a King and guess what? They're coming here. I thought we'd better prepare a bit, ya know. Spruce up the stable a little. Been a long time since we've had anyone but the farmer walking through here and let's be honest, the hay around here isn't looking so fresh these days, and neither do we.

They all look down at themselves and examine their figures.

DONKEY: Hmm, maybe you're right, but what would a King want to come here for?

SHEEP: I'm just passing the fleece along. But we'd better hurry. Who knows how much time we have.

DONKEY: I've never met a king before. I wonder what He'll be like. To think, a king in our barn. The horse up the street is going to be so jealous.

ROOSTER: If you think I'm going to stay up all night for this, you are dead wrong. I need my rest.

COW: Aww, go crow about it someplace else. You think this kind of opportunity happens every day? You better get those feathers in check, Mister. Straighten those chicks up too. I won't have anyone coming to my barn and getting a peek at a bunch of shabby livestock. Let's get a MOOve on and tidy up this place fast.

They begin to clean up the stable.

(Song # 3)

DONKEY: Wait, I think I hear someone coming.

COW: It must be our guest. Everyone get ready.

The animals stand proudly and wait for their guest to arrive.

Mary and Joseph enter, with Mary very pregnant and about to give birth. She is very uncomfortable.

MARY: Joseph, I don't know what to do. This baby wants to come soon.

JOSEPH: Hold it.

Mary stares blankly at Joseph.

MARY: That's not exactly how this works but being a man, you would not understand.

JOSEPH: It will be all right. The Innkeeper said this would be a safe place. I know it might not be as comfortable but, (*looks around, pleased with how the barn looks*), hey, it's not so bad at all.

Cow high-fives donkey.

MARY: Is there anywhere to lay down?

JOSEPH: Like, this place is really nice. Wow, these animals must love it here.

MARY: Joseph, the baby is coming.

JOSEPH: I don't think I've ever seen a barn as nice as this one--

MARY: OW!

JOSEPH: Oh, sorry. Here, let's get a spot made up for you over here. Just keep breathing. You're doing great.

They exit.

COW: Oh seriously? Who are these people? Don't tell me we fixed the barn up for a couple of homeless folks who can't even afford a hotel.

SHEEP: The flock said a King was coming. Do you think one of these people are a king?

ROOSTER: Shabbiest looking King I've ever seen.

COW: Rooster, how many kings have you seen?

ROOSTER: Well, none. But I'm pretty sure they don't look like that.

SHEEP: Well, one of these people is a lady, so she would have to be a queen, wouldn't she?

DONKEY: What difference does it make?! What are we going to do? It's obvious neither of them are the King. We've got to get them out of here before the real King gets here.

COW: How are we gonna do that? (*looking offstage*) They look like they're getting pretty comfortable over there.

DONKEY: Why don't you offer them some of your milk? I'm sure that'd send them running off in no time.

Cow gives Donkey a snarky look.

COW: How about another idea?

ROOSTER: I could crow a lot. Maybe the noise would make them want to leave?

SHEEP: Yeah, but you'd have half the town think it was daylight already and then, my friend, it's gonna be off to the chopping block with ya.

ROOSTER: On second thought, I think I'd better just be quiet.

DONKEY: We'd better think of something fast. The King could be getting here any minute.

COW: Wait. What's that? The woman is holding something.

SHEEP: What is it?

Mary and Joseph enter. Mary carries a baby in a bundle in her arms.

ROOSTER: I don't know. It's hard to see --- wait, it's a baby.

COW: Wow --- A baby.

SHEEP: A real baby? That was quick.

DONKEY: That's why they were looking for a place to stay. She was going to give birth.

SHEEP: Wow, I wish we had known that before --- I just thought she loved food.

DONKEY: Well, if our barn is good enough for a King, then I'm sure it's good enough for a baby.

ROOSTER: Yeah, everyone deserves a warm place to rest their head, in fact, that's more than enough excitement for me for the night. I don't care if I do miss seeing a king. I think I got to see something even more wonderful --- a new life coming into the world. I felt the same when these little chickies hatched. C'mon, kids, time for bed.

Rooster and Chicks exit.

CHRIST in CHRISTmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

SHEEP: So, what are we gonna do?

COW: (*admiring the baby in Mary's arms*) Aww, look at Him. He's adorable.

DONKEY: Yeah, He's so cute, He almost makes me forget about my aching hooves.

SHEEP: You guys, have you forgotten? The King is coming?

COW: And when He does, He's gonna see the most beautiful baby there ever was. Coochi coochi coo.

SHEEP: Seriously, you guys. I think I hear someone coming. It's the King for real this time. Oh no. What are we gonna do?

Sheep begins pacing frantically.

Wisemen enter.

WISEMAN 1: Greetings! We have traveled from afar to seek an audience with the King of kings.

WISEMAN 2: Wow, nice barn.

WISEMAN 3: It's a stable, and you're right. This place is terrific.

JOSEPH: I know, right. I couldn't believe how nice this place looked either.

WISEMAN 1: Please, please, let me finish: We were told to follow a bright star to the birthplace of the Messiah, and it has led us here over many days and many lands. We humbly bow to receive your blessings.

They bow before Joseph, Mary, and the Baby.

WISEMAN 3: We offer you these gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Wiseman 3 presents gifts to Joseph.

JOSEPH: Thank you so much for your offerings. We are blessed with this child, Jesus. Please come and look upon Him.

The Wisemen approach the Baby and smile down at Him.

WISEMAN 2: Wow, so that's what the King of kings looks like.

WISEMAN 3: He's absolutely perfect.

DONKEY: Wait a minute --- the baby is the king?

CHRIST in CHRISTmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

Sheep stops pacing abruptly.

SHEEP: WHAT?

COW: Well curdle my milk, to think we assumed those folks were just a couple of freeloaders.

DONKEY: But, He's so small. I wonder who He'll grow up to be.

Grandpa enters, stands next to Mary and Baby. He speaks to the audience.

GRANDPA: So, you see, children, a king need not be someone who wears robes and crowns and jewels. Even a small person can make a huge difference.

(Song # 4)

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 4

Setting: Family Living Room

LIGHTS UP

Grandpa and Grandma are sitting on chairs.

Chelsea, Martin, and Andrew sit in front of them.

GRANDMA: So, children, do you think you understand the true meaning of Christmas now?

The Kids stop to think.

CHELSEA, MARTIN, ANDREW: No.

CHELSEA: And animals don't talk.

GRANDPA: Balaam's donkey did.

MARTIN: Who is Balaam?

Grandpa and Grandma slap their forehead.

GRANDPA: These kids need a Bible.

ANDREW: There's a Bible at home. Mom keeps it on the bookshelf like a trophy.

GRANDMA: You need to read it sometimes. I need to have a serious talk with your parents.

MARTIN: Who was that Baby? Why was He so important?

CHELSEA: And why did people want to give Him gifts? What made Him so special?

ANDREW: Also, Grandpa, you haven't explained who God is yet. Is the baby God?

GRANDPA: All right, all right, all right. One more story. But hopefully this one will help you see the importance of Christmas and why we celebrate it, only this time, we'll let the Angels tell it.

CHELSEA & MARTIN: Angels?

GRANDPA: That's right. I gotta tell you those Angels are busy folks. In fact, they spend a whole lot of time worrying about you guys. Yes, you children. And me, and, well, all of mankind. Do you wanna know why?

The Kids lean in, awaiting the answer.

GRANDPA: Because God loves us. Did you know that?

ANDREW: God loves us? But why?

GRANDMA: Because we are His creation. Because we wouldn't be who we are, and you wouldn't be who you are, without that love. God gave you the gift of life. That is how much He loves you. You are here because of that love.

CHELSEA: But how can God love me, when I haven't even met Him?

GRANDMA: You have met Him, sweetie, because He lives in you. He surrounds you. You are a part of Him.

MARTIN: But what does this have to do with Christmas?

GRANDPA: Well, I'll tell you. It was a busy time for the Angels up in heaven. They were looking down on man and all the things humans were involved in.

Angels enter as Grandma, Martin and Chelsea exit. Andrew becomes the character of Gabriel.

GRANDPA: Remember how I said, back in the olden days, folks could see, hear and feel God more than they can now? Well, Angels were the ones who helped a lot with that. They were God's messengers you see.

Grandpa slowly exits. Angels are busy taking notes, answering phones, etc.

They overlap the following lines as if they are working at a call-center. The phones are ringing off the hook.

SARIEL: Yes. He hears you. Yes, He will get back to you on that. Yes, everything will be all right.

GABRIEL: I'll have Him get right back to you. I know it's been awhile since you've had a good day.

RAPHAEL: I'm so sorry to hear that. Yes, I will have Him take care of that as soon as I can. Yes. Absolutely.

URIEL: I really wish there was more that I could do right now, but my hands are tied. Yes, I understand. Yes, it will get better.

ALL ANGELS: Goodbye!

They hang up their phones, and all let out a collective sigh.

RAPHAEL: Boy, this time of year is always rough.

SARIEL: I know. It's like everyone saves all their worry and stress for just a few weeks out of the year. My phone has been ringing off the hook for days.

URIEL: Mine too.

GABRIEL: Well, it's the least we can do. It sounds like there is a lot going on down there. It feels good to help a little, even if we're only the messengers.

RAPHAEL: Have you talked to Him lately?

GABRIEL: No, He's been so busy, we haven't really had a chance. How about you guys?

RAPHAEL: I spoke with Him a while ago, right before the rush. He seemed to be thinking about this terrific idea to help the folks down there understand how much He loves them and wanted me to share it with you.

URIEL: What's the idea?

RAPHAEL: Well, it's a bit of a different kind of idea, but He thought it would be important to show all of humanity how much He loves them by taking away all their sin and pain.

SARIEL: Wow, what a great idea. I'm sure that would help lots of people.

RAPHAEL: But there's more. In order for the people to understand why He is going to be doing this, He needs to give them something of the flesh. You know how sensory the people are. They need to experience something they will understand on their terms.

ANGELS: Yes, of course, yeah.

RAPHAEL: He has chosen a woman to bear Him a Son who will show the people of the Earth how much He loves them with His words and deeds.

GABRIEL: Wow!

SARIEL: What a fantastic idea.

RAPHAEL: By offering the people His only Son as an embodiment of His love for them, the people will understand, and feel comfort in knowing His love is always there for them in times of need.

(Song # 5)

URIEL: I can't wait to see how this plan goes.

GABRIEL: What can we do to help?

RAPHAEL: Well, I'm glad you asked because He told me to ask you personally to tell the mother she is to bear the child of God. He always said you were the best with words and can give her comfort for this important task.

GABRIEL: Me? What an honor.

URIEL: What can the rest of us do?

RAPHAEL: Well, brothers, that's the other thing. He told me that with this new plan of His, we won't be needed to work the phone lines that much anymore, because the people will be getting a more direct line of communication.

SARIEL: So, we're out of a job?

RAPHAEL: Not exactly. We will all become personal protectors. Be able to spend time with the people one on one and help them up close and personal. Also, we will all be remembered for delivering the message of God's love to the world.

GABRIEL: Sounds like a good plan to me.

URIEL: This is going to be wonderful. I feel like I could sing.

(They break into a rendition of "Angels We Have Heard on High")

LIGHTS OUT

Scene 5

Setting: Family Living Room

LIGHTS UP

Grandpa, Grandma, and Kids sit in front of the Christmas Tree once again.

GRANDMA: So, children, now do you understand the true meaning of Christmas?

CHELSEA: So, God loved us so much He gave us a gift?

GRANDPA: That's right, and that's why we give each other gifts.

MARTIN: And He wanted us to know how to love other people too, right?

GRANDMA: That's right.

GRANDPA: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* We give thanks to God on Christmas for showing us love and we remember the birth of His only Son, Jesus Christ. That is why it is called CHRISTmas.

ANDREW: So, it's not just about getting presents, eating candy canes and decorating a tree?

GRANDMA: Not at all, but look, do you notice the angel on the top of the tree? There are lots of ways you can remember for yourself what the true meaning of Christmas is while still opening presents and decorating the tree. It is important where you place your heart during this time of year, and that, my children, should always be on the spirit of the season. Remembering that little Baby in the stable who would grow up to be a wonderful Man, and show the world the depths of God's love for us all.

GRANDPA: This time of year, focus on giving presents, helping those less fortunate than you are, and remember to love one another. That is what this time of year is all about.

MARTIN: And the baby? Jesus? Was he really a King?

GRANDMA: That, my dear, is a story for another time, and speaking of time, look. It's already daylight outside. It's Christmas morning.

GRANDPA: So, kids, are you ready to open those presents now?

CHELSEA: Hmm.

CHRIST in CHRISTmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

Chelsea walks over to the tree and picks up a gift, examining the package.

She walks over to Andrew.

CHELSEA: Here, Andrew. This one is for you.

ANDREW: Thank you.

Andrew walks over to the tree and grabs a present, then gives it to Martin.

ANDREW: And this one is for you.

The children exchange gifts, each giving one to the other.

Martin grabs two and hands them to Grandma and Grandpa.

MARTIN: And these are for you. Thank you, Grandma and Grandpa. Merry Christmas.

GRANDMA, GRANDPA: *(Smiling)* Merry Christmas.

(Song # 6)

LIGHTS OUT