

The Perfect Gift



Written by Dan Zigler and Elton Smith

The Perfect Gift

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This complete play is available online at:

<http://songsofpraise.org/theperfectgift.htm>
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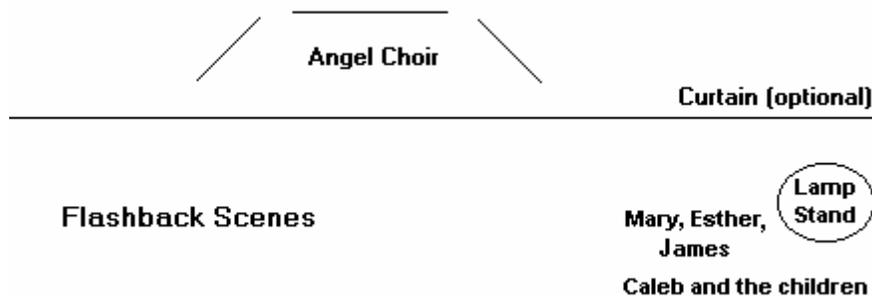
1 Prologue

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Note: Although there is no scriptural proof nor reference to Mary as a Grandmother, many Christians interpret scripture referring to Jesus' brothers and sisters as making this scenario possible. If our basic premise of Mary as a grandmother does not fit into your set of beliefs, please feel free to modify the play slightly. For example, instead of their grandmother, you might make Mary the aunt of Esther and Caleb.

Setup: If possible the stage should be on different levels. Mary and her grandchildren should be below and in front of the stage area for the scenes. If the church has a raised platform, they should be on the same level as the audience. This will help to create the illusion of a different time and place for Mary's flashbacks as she tells the story of Jesus birth. If a bi-level set is not possible, then all properties should be light and easily removed by the actors as they exit their scenes.



Staging: (the Narrator moves onto the stage from stage right, turns and speaks to the audience)

Narrator: **Christmas is a time of families, gifts, traditions and most of all,**

gathering together as believers to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This play is about Christ, the perfect gift. It is a story about families, their troubles and worries, and their triumphs. It is the story about Mary and Joseph and the events that led up to that wonderful birth of Christ.

Staging: (the Narrator moves to center stage, again turning to address the audience)

Narrator: **We don't know a lot about Mary, Joseph and their children. We aren't even sure how long they both lived or how many children they had together. But our play is going to take you back in time to an imaginary encounter between Mary and her grandchildren.** (points to the area of the stage where Mary and the children are seated)

Staging: (the Narrator moves to stage left, again turning to address the audience)

Narrator: **So, sit back and imagine yourself looking on as Grandmother Mary tells her grandchildren about the wonder of her son, Jesus the Perfect Gift.**

Staging: (The narrator exits stage left, as the house dims to black, and a spotlight comes up on a teenage girl, seated on a bench, looking out an imaginary window.)

Esther: **Grandma, do you think he'll come tonight?** (puts an oil lamp on the stand in front of the window.) **Grandma, can you hear me?** (turning to call offstage) **Do you think he'll come tonight?** (even more insistent) **Do you think tonight is the night?**

Mary: (enters carrying a small ornate box) **Esther! I don't know if your husband-to-be will come tonight. You must be patient, he won't come for you until his father is satisfied that everything is ready for your marriage.** (strokes Esther's hair) **Just make sure your lamp is filled and burning for him to see.** (Mary sits on the bench beside Esther)

Esther: **Why do we do this!** (exasperated) **Why must we endure this strange tradition! Why can't we just get married and be done with it?**

Mary: (changing the subject, a slight laugh) **Esther, you are such a beautiful grandchild!** (giving the box to Esther) **I want to give you something. Here is a gift for your dowry.**

Esther: (delighted and surprised) **Grandmother! It is so beautiful!** (opening the lid) **Wherever did you get this? It's filled with gold!** (lifting up a small bottle) **And what is this? Incense?** (lifting another small bag and smelling it) **Is this myrrh?**

Mary: (lovingly watching her grandchild) **Yes. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. Three gifts from some very important men to my oldest son, when he was**

born.

Esther: (quizzically) **You mean, Jesus? Your son, Jesus?**

Mary: (reflecting) **Yes, Jesus ... (slight pause) But not just my son, He was the Son of God.**

Esther: (still looking over the box) **Grandma, you always say that, but I never understand it.** (kissing Mary on the cheek) **This is just the most perfect gift, thank you!**

Mary: (hugging Esther) **No, Esther this is not the perfect gift Jesus is the Perfect Gift.** (still holding Esther tightly)

Staging: (more children join the scene, sitting down and around Mary's feet)

Mary: **Oh, my lovely grandchildren! Come and listen!**

Esther: **Grandmother, tell us about Jesus tell us about his birth again!**

Caleb: **Yes, Grandmother tell us about the angels, the shepherds and everything again!!**

All Children: **Yes! Tell us!! Please, tell us Grandmother!**

Mary: **Well it started one night** (stroking Esther's hair) **.... I was about your age, Esther.** (spotlight begins to fade) **I was alone in my bed, dreaming about some wondrous things** (lights go to blackout, as Mary's voice trails off) **.... I wasn't sleeping well at all. Something was different, something was happening to me....**

Staging: (when the lights have gone completely black, the spotlight will come up on the next scene. Mary and the children will remain in their position "frozen in time".... as her story comes to life)

(end of scene)

2 The Angel Visits Mary

Staging: Mary is asleep, but sleeping fitfully. A blue spotlight shines on her and her bed, leaving the rest of the stage dark. After tossing and turning, she wakes up startled. As she sits on the bed, a man dressed in white robes with flowers in his hair appears in the room sitting cross legged on a chair or stool. A bar stool can be used as a prop. A spotlight fades in on the angel to make him "appear". Mary doesn't realize he is there at first.

Gabriel: (gently calling her) **Mary...**

Mary: (looks up in wonder) **Who are you?**

Gabriel: **My name is Gabriel. God has sent me to you with a message.**

Mary: **God? A message? For me?** (pausing, Mary narrows her eyes) **Hey! How did you get in here? I remember bolting the door.**

Gabriel: **Bolted doors are nothing to God.** (pause, whimsical smile) **Were you dreaming?**

Mary: **Oh, yes. It was the most vivid dream I have ever had. I dreamed I was having a baby. Thank goodness it was only a dream! Joseph and I aren't married yet.** (Mary blushes)

Gabriel: (pause, then seriously) **It was more than a dream, Mary. God sent me to tell you that you will have a son. His name will be Jesus.**

Mary: (smiling and excited) **You mean after Joseph and I get married, we will have a son?**

Gabriel: **No, Joseph will not be the child's father.**

Mary: **But Joseph is the only man I want to marry! If I become pregnant while we are engaged, Joseph will reject me, disgrace me!**

Gabriel: **Mary, do not be afraid. Joseph will not leave you.** (pause) **Your son will be great and will be called the 'Son of God'. Was your ancestor David a great king?**

Mary: **Oh yes! David was the greatest king Israel ever had!**

Gabriel: **Your son will be greater than David. His kingdom will never end.**

Mary: **But how can this be? I've already told you I am a virgin!**

Gabriel: **By the power of God, through His Holy Spirit, you will conceive. That is why your child will be called the 'Son of God'. (pause) Oh, I almost forgot. There's one more thing I am to tell you... Elizabeth is also going to have a son.**

Mary: **Oh, she's too old to have a child.**

Gabriel: **Mary, do you trust God? Many unusual things will happen in your life. There will be great joy... and great sorrow. You must be strong and trust God. Can you do this?**

Mary: **Yes, I will try.**

Gabriel: **Remember... God has a purpose for all that will happen. (pause) I must leave you now. Be strong, and remember... remember...(the light on the angel fades out and he disappears from the scene. When his light is gone, Gabriel quietly moves either behind the dresser or off the stage.)**

Mary: **Goodbye, my angel. (Mary stares at the place where the angel sat. After a few moments she rubs her eyes and yawns.) I must be dreaming. (pinches herself) No... I am awake. What can all this mean?**

Staging: Mary sings "**Mary's Song**" while sitting on her bed:

**Father God You sent Your angel Gabriel to me
Greeted me as if I were some kind of royalty
Now my hearts not changed by the promise I made
Just moments ago
But, I'm alone, confused and I have some doubts
You should know**

**Though it was written by the prophet Isaiah
That this would come to be
Surely there's someone 'lot stronger
Worthier than me**

**Still You have chosen who You have chosen
Your promise fulfilled though me
I am a handmaid.
(God in the background)
Still I have chosen who I have chosen,
My promise fulfilled through thee.**

(Mary)

**Let it be done to me
Let there be praise for Thee
From this earthly vessel let Your Word be known
Age to age Word made flesh from Your Heavenly throne**

**Remember I'm betrothed to Joseph so gentle, meek and kind
How will he react when I tell him, with Your Child am I
Now I don't want to tell You how this plan of Yours should go
Have You considered all the options is there someone else You know**

**Let it be done to me
Let there be praise for Thee
From this earthly vessel let Your Word be known
Age to age Word made flesh from Your Heavenly throne**

**My soul sings of the promise that You bring
The Mighty One has done great things
Holy is His Name**

**My soul sings of the promise that You bring
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Staging: (When the song is over, the scene fades on young Mary. Young Mary and older Mary, both say the following lines together as the lights fade from one to the other. Young Mary's voice fades out and older Mary's voice grows stronger.)

Both Mary(s) in unison: **What will Joseph think of all this? He is such a kind man. I hope he understands.**

Esther: **I can only imagine what Joshua would think about my being with child before our wedding!**

Mary: (stroking Esther's head) **And I was worried about Joseph too! For you see I was only just beginning to learn what it meant to trust in God, letting Him make miraculous things happen.** (speaking to the other children) **God sent an angel to Joseph too! The Angel told him about all the wonderful things that would happen to this very special child and helped him to understand.** (pausing to reflect) **Your grandfather was a wonderful man, I loved him dearly!**

Esther: **Grandmother!** (pulling on her sleeve) **Don't get side tracked ... you're telling me that Elizabeth and you were pregnant at the same time?**

Caleb: **What's pregnant mean?**

Mary: (laughing at Caleb) **That's a story for another time Caleb!**

Esther: **Grandmother! Tell me about Elizabeth.**

Staging: (lights begin to fade on Mary and the children, as scene 2 comes up)

Mary: (turning towards all the children) **I immediately traveled to see Elizabeth. I wanted to know if what the angel told me was true. So I went to visit her....**

(end of scene)

3 Mary and Elizabeth

Staging: (Grandma Mary continues with her recollections of her visit to Elizabeth.)

Mary: **So after Gabriel visited me and gave me the news that I was with child, I was determined to travel and visit Elizabeth and Zecharias at their home in the countryside.**

Caleb: **Grandma, what does that mean ... "with child"?**

Mary: (smiles and pats Caleb on the head)

Grandchildren: (all laughing and pointing at Caleb)

Esther: **Caleb! (giggly) It means she was going to have a baby, silly!**

Mary: (pulling Caleb up onto her lap) **Yes, Caleb, I was going to have a baby, I was "with child". A very special baby! And the angel Gabriel told me that Elizabeth was going to have a baby too! (stroking Caleb's hair) And so, I left to see Elizabeth... partly because I curious, and partly because I wanted to know if what Gabriel had said was true. I just needed to know....**

Staging: (the spotlight on Mary begins to fade as she continues)

Mary: **So I traveled to their home in the countryside... I arrived calling out her name....**

Older Mary: **Elizabeth... (fading out) Elizabeth....**

Young Mary: **Elizabeth... Elizabeth... Are you home?**

Staging: (the light is now coming up on Elizabeth, with Young Mary calling her name from a distance....)

Staging: Elizabeth is sitting in a rocking chair on the left side of the stage. She is an older woman and her pregnancy is starting to show. She is rocking, smiling and humming "This Baby" to herself. After a few moments, young Mary enters from the right side of the stage. She stops at an imaginary door and looks into the house. Elizabeth gets out of her rocker and goes to Mary.

Elizabeth: (hugs Mary, then steps back to look at her) **Mary... what brings you here? Is Joseph all right?**

Mary: **Yes, Joseph is fine. The question is 'how are you?'. (reaches down to feel Elizabeth's baby) I had the most amazing visitor... an angel. He told me that both of us are going to have sons! I just had to come see you.**

Elizabeth: (she extends her hands to Mary's stomach) **It's true! Praise God!**
(stops, holds her stomach and winces) **Oh my... I need to sit down for a minute. The baby is jumping all around! I think my baby is anxious to meet your baby.** (She sits down in her rocker. Mary sits in another rocking chair beside her and holds Elizabeth's hand) **Mary, an angel appeared to Zecharias also a few months ago. Maybe it was the same angel. Anyway, the angel told Zecharias that we were going to have a son... and we're so old! When Zecharias was a little skeptical the angel took his voice away. It been real quiet around here.** (she smiles)

Mary: (giggles) **Where is Zecharias?**

Elizabeth: **Oh, he's over at the temple. He spends a lot of time there.** (pauses)
Mary, I know my baby is going to be special, but your baby is going to be wonderful! I haven't seen any angels, but God has told me in other ways. My son is going to prepare the way, and your son is going to change the world!

Mary: **That's what the angel told me. He said his kingdom would never end. I don't know if I can handle all this excitement.**

Elizabeth: **Oh, it will be all right. God is watching over us.**

Staging: **Mary and Elizabeth sing "For The Wonder Of God's Love" as a duet.**

Mary: **For the wonder of God's love,
For the word sent from above,
Telling of the child I am to bear.
God Himself in human form,
As a humble baby born,
Come to save His people everywhere.**

**I cry out with joy to God on High:
He has not passed His people by.
This child in me
Holds the keys of eternity!
To His humble servant, grace is shown,
To me His blessing is made known;
Praised be His Name forever!**

Elizabeth: **I was called the barren one;
Now I am to bear a son
Who shall call our people to prepare
For the kingdom now to come,
For the High and Holy One,
As a prophet, mighty to declare.**

**I cry out with joy to God on High:
He has not passed His servant by.
My shame is gone,
In its place, there is a song!
For He heard my earnest prayer and plea,
The Lord of Life brings joy to me;
Praised be His Name forever!**

Mary: **To the least of all His servants,
God has shown His love and care.
As we follow where He leads us,
In His blessing we will share.**

Elizabeth: **We are vessels of the Master,
We are servants of the King.
We are humbled by the glorious news
The angel came to bring.**

Both: **For the wonder of God's love,
For the Word sent from above,
Jesus comes, the Way of Life to share.
God Himself in human form,
As a humble baby born,
Come to save His people everywhere.**

**We cry out in joy to God on high:
He has not passed His people by.
In Him, we're free,
For He holds eternity.
Though we're nothing special on our own,
His grace and mercy now are shown;
Praised be His Name forever!**

Mary: **Hallelujah! I just love it out here at your place!**

Elizabeth: **We're way out here in the sticks. I have a friend coming in a few months to help with the delivery. Will you stay here with me till they arrive? We would just love to have you.**

Both Marys: **Oh, thank you!. That would be wonderful!**

Staging: The scene fades out on Elizabeth and Young Mary, this happens as both Mary(s) say these lines in unison. The lights come back up on Grandma Mary, Esther, Caleb and the grandchildren.

Mary: **So, I stayed with Elizabeth and Zecharius several months. But soon**

it was time for me to leave and rejoin Joseph.

James: (enters from stage left) **Mary... it is good to see you again! And here you are, surrounded by your grandchildren telling stories about Jesus! I should have known!** (affectionately kisses Mary on the cheek)

Mary: **James!** (putting her gentle hand on his cheek) **I love it when you come by to visit!**

Caleb: **Tell me about your donkey ride Grandma! Tell about the donkey, please, Grandma, please!**

Mary: **I think James should tell you about the donkey, Caesar Augustus and the trip Joseph and I made to Bethlehem!**

Staging: Esther moves off the bench to the floor, making room for James to sit.... James reaches down picking up Caleb from Mary's lap, tickles him a little and sits down beside Mary with Caleb on his lap)

James: (addressing Esther) **I see you're still waiting for Joshua to come, Esther?** (affectionately patting Esther on the head) **He'll come soon enough!**

Caleb: **Oh! please!! ... let's stop talking about Esther and Joshua ... let's talk about that donkey that Grandma rode!**

James: (laughs and tickles Caleb) **Okay, okay Caleb!**

(end of scene)

4 Joseph and Mary Arrive In Bethlehem

James: **So it was, that Caesar Augustus issued an order that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register, including Joseph & Mary.**

Caleb: **Is this the part where Grandma got to ride the donkey?**

James: **Yes, Caleb. Your Grandpa Joseph, took Grandma on a donkey to Bethlehem, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was very heavy with child.**

Caleb: **‘Heavy with child?’ What does that mean? The baby was heavy?**

James: (smiling and patting Caleb on the head) **It was time came for the baby to be born Caleb.**

James: **They went from one inn to the next looking for a place to stay, but they were all full. Finally, there was only one place left to try. It was a little way out of town. Joseph left Mary at a safe place and went ahead to talk to the innkeeper. He said...**

James and
Joseph
together: **Please let us in. We are cold, hungry, and exhausted... and my wife is about to have a baby!**

Innkeeper: **I just rented the last room... sorry. (turns to go inside)**

Joseph: **Wait! Don’t you have anything? We have no where left to turn.**

Innkeeper: **You say your wife is about to have a baby. (crosses his arms) I see no wife! Where is she?**

Joseph: **I left her sitting by the fire at the last inn. She just had to rest a while. But we can’t stay there... they are full. Where do the Romans think we are supposed to stay?**

Innkeeper: (with contempt) **Yes, the Romans treat us like children. They say ‘Go here!’, then ‘Go there!... and while you’re at it, pay some more taxes.’ (sighs) I’ll tell you what... you bring your wife here and I’ll let you stay in the stable over there. (he points off in the distance) It’s just a little cave in the hillside with a porch**

and some mangers, but it's dry and sheltered from the wind. I'll even let you have it for half price.

Joseph: **Half price... but it's not even a room!**

Innkeeper: **Do you want a place to stay?**

Joseph: (looks back down the road where Mary is waiting and grimaces... speaking slowly and shaking his head) **OK, I'll take it.**

Innkeeper: **Good! I'll put a stove out there and some wood for a little fire. That way your wife will be nice and warm. (smiling) Hope you like goats.**

Joseph: **Goats? Hmmm. Do they have any milk? (hands the innkeeper a coin)**

Innkeeper: **Sure, you can milk them if you want. With all these people around, I haven't had any time.**

Joseph: **Thank you, friend. (shaking the innkeepers hand vigorously) I'll go get my wife.**

James & Joseph Together: (Joseph calling offstage as he exits, the spotlight fades back to Mary, James and the grandchildren) **Mary, good news, I've found a place to stay!! Mary, Mary!**

James: **For you see Caleb, this was more than a child this was a King that was going to be born.**

Staging: Music is cued up for "**More Than a Child**", which will be sung by James and the grandchildrenthe Angel Choir can join softly in the background during the choruses and final verse as the song reaches its finale.

(long introduction - cello and piano)

(Verse 1)

**More than a child born in the hay,
Jesus, my Lord, on that first Christmas day.
More than the son of a carpenter man;
You carried the weight of the world in Your hand.**

**For You are the Hope of my soul,
All that I see, and all that I know.
In You, there is peace in my life,
For one day You came, as angels proclaimed,
The Light of the world for us all!**

(Verse 2)

**More than a star shining that night,
More than the shepherd amazed by the sight,
More than three wise men with riches of gold;
You, the Messiah, the prophets foretold**

**Would come, bringing newness and life,
Freedom from sin, deliv'rance from strife.
In You, there is peace evermore,
For one day You came, as angels proclaimed,
The Light of the world for us all.**

**Yes, one day You came, as angels proclaimed,
Redeemer and Lord of us all!**

(end of scene)

5 Angels Visit The Shepherds In The Fields

Esther: **My favorite part of Jesus' birth is about the Shepherds in the fields.**
(sighs)

James: **One of my favorite parts too!** (hugging Caleb) **They were young men like you will grow up to be someday, Caleb!** (tickles Caleb) **Out in the fields, watching over their sheep.**

Mary: **Yes, it was a cold night. No clouds in the sky to hide God's glorious heavens and stars proclaiming the birth of a King -- the very Son of God!**

Staging: (as Mary's dialogue continues, the stars begin to appear on the ceiling as the mirror globe is slowly brought up in the background)

Mary: (thoughtfully reflecting) **Yes, the Christ child ... the very Son of God. All the heavens were proclaiming his birth... (her voice begins to soften and trail off) ... all the heavenly Angels and Gabriel were out proclaiming his birth....**

Staging: (Benjamin and Simeon are sitting under the stars tending their sheep. Their brother, Isaac, is supposed to be helping them, but he is fast asleep. Occasionally he snores and becomes restless. The mirrored ball is reflecting 2 highly focused spotlights and is very slowly turning. This creates an illusion of starlight on the stage and in the entire auditorium. Benjamin stands up, holding a shepherd's staff, while Simeon, is poking around a fire pit, putting on logs and arranging them, his staff is leaning against a nearby rock)

Benjamin: (waving his arms upward) **You know, Simeon, the stars have got to be the most beautiful thing in God's creation. They are so beautiful tonight. It is like they are dancing in the heavens!**

Simeon: (poking around in the fire pit) **Benjamin, they just look like dots up in the sky to me.** (disgusted) **I think these chips are too damp, they just won't burn.**

Benjamin: **Oh, Simeon! They are more than just dots in the sky. They change. Have you noticed that they are different in Winter than they are in the Summer. Some of the stars go away and others appear. Where do they go? Where do they come from?**

Simeon: **I don't know, Benjamin -- and I don't care!** (exasperated). **If you don't stop your star gazing and help me, we're all going to be very cold tonight.** (pointing to Isaac) **Of course, Isaac won't notice!**

Benjamin: **Simeon... God knows! -- and God cares too! He created everything!** (stands and waves his arms around excitedly) **Stop and look at how beautiful the stars are tonight -- to me, they are a new wonder every night!!**

Simeon: **Yeah, Benjamin, like that new star shining over Bethlehem? That thing scares me. It wasn't there last week.**

Benjamin: **Remember when God told Abraham that he would make his children as numerous as the stars in the Heavens?** (laughing & waving his arms broadly) **Well, perhaps there is a new descendant of Abraham being born tonight!** (shouting upwards) **Simeon, count the children of Israel!!**

Simeon: **Benjamin! All I see are dots in the sky -- and be quiet or you will scare the sheep!**

Benjamin: (turning around, and crouching next to Simeon at the fire pit) **We've seen lots of strange things in the skies before. Stars that shoot across the sky, bolts of lightning that dance from cloud to cloud. Surely you remember those!** (off-handedly) **Where did you get these chips, Simeon? Hand me that one.**

Simeon: (handing Benjamin a chip) **I remember Benjamin. You make it sound like something special is happening.**

Benjamin: **It is special! Don't you understand... God is trying to tell us something. Maybe this new star is a sign that something important is about to happen.**

Simeon: **Yeah, like a catastrophe!** (imitating God) **Simeon -- build a boat -- get two of every creature -- a lot of water is coming!!** (laughingly pushes Benjamin off balance)

Benjamin: (regaining his balance, jokingly pushing his brother back) **Not a catastrophe! I think this is going to be a special night.** (slightly perplexed) **Simeon, how can you see creation all around you, yet not see God at work?**

Isaac: (has a sudden loud outburst of snoring)

Simeon: **Every night is special for Isaac.** (looks at his sleeping brother) **He gets to sleep while we do all the work.**

Staging: (The 2 brothers sit in silence for a few moments. Benjamin continues looking at the stars. Simeon stares at the fire. The black lights are turned on illuminating only Gabriel. The mirrored ball's rotation continues. Gabriel is the spokesman for the angels.)

Gabriel: (in a loud voice) **Benjamin! Greetings on this holy night!** (Benjamin just stares and rubs his eyes. Simeon sees Gabriel and tries to hide.)

Gabriel: **Do not be afraid. I bring you wonderful news.**

Benjamin: (stutters) **N...n...n... news?**

Gabriel: **Wonderful news! For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Go with your brothers into town. You will find the baby wrapped in a cloth, lying in a manger.**

Staging: (all the blacklights are turned on, as the entire Angel Choir is fully illuminated)

Angels: (All the angels raise their arms to heaven) **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!**

Staging: (Music Begins)

Song: (Angel choir sings "**Behold a Miracle**". When the song is complete, the black lights are turned off and only the mirrored ball is left illuminating the scene)

*** * * * * Bells * * * * ***

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy!
All of heaven came to sing!
Behold a miracle,
in the town of Bethlehem,
with a star shining overhead,
and God smiling down on us.
Behold a miracle,
spread the news across the land.
Come and worship the newborn child
as all creation sings...
Behold a miracle,
for unto you is born a King.**

*** * * * * Bells * * * * ***

**Oh, you shepherds in the fields,
Listen as the angels sing,
Joyful news about the Christ child:
Behold your new born King.
Follow close the brightest star
On this glorious Christmas night
And you will find the Savior**

Beneath its shining light.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Holy!
All of heaven came to sing!
Behold a miracle,
in the town of Bethlehem,
with a star shining overhead,
and God smiling down on us.
Behold a miracle,
spread the news across the land.
Come and worship the newborn child
as all creation sings...
Behold a miracle,
for unto you is born a King.

*** * * * * Bells * * * * ***

Benjamin: (turns to his brother) **Simeon, stop cowering on the ground and get up. Didn't you hear the angel? The Savior, the Christ, our new King is born!** (goes over to Isaac and shakes him) **Wake up Isaac!**

Isaac: (wakes up and stands, but is very groggy) **Wha... what's happening? Did we lose any of the sheep?**

Benjamin: **No, the sheep are all here. We're going to find the new King!** (grabs Isaac by the arm and starts to lead him away)

Isaac: **Wait! We can't just leave all these sheep here. I'll stay behind and watch after them.**

Benjamin: **You'll just sleep if you stay here.** (grabs Isaac's arm again) **Come on! The new King is born. Let's go find him!** (all 3 walk off the stage together)

Isaac: **I don't understand where are we going what are we doing? Benjamin, tell me...** (trails off as they leave the stage)

Staging: (the stars begin to fade out and the lights on James, Mary and the children come up as James begins to speak)

James: **Children, it would have been a glorious site to see! The heavens filled with Angels singing about the Christ-child. The shepherds left the fields to go in search of Him. To see the new King!**

Mary: **They were awe-struck by the glorious news from the angels & Gabriel. I don't know if they fully understood who this King was -- yet they came to worship and honor Him.** (patting Esther's head)

Esther: (looking up at Mary) **What was it like, Grandma -- giving birth to a baby, surrounded by animals! You must have been very frightened! No family -- except Grandpa -- no midwife to help you -- no one to hold your hand and soothe your pain.**

Mary: **Oh, it wasn't frightening at all child!! God was with us that night! In more ways, than just one! The place of birth was surrounded by a host of Angels... legions upon legions of angels!**

Caleb: **There were animals there? Was your Donkey there too, Grandma? I like donkeys, Grandma!**

Mary: (a slight laugh as she kisses Caleb) **Yes, Caleb, Grandma's donkey was there too! And goats and all sorts of other animals. Caleb, it was like all of creation descended to watch "God" be born!**

(end of scene)

6 Jesus Is Born

Staging: Unlike the previous scenes, this scene contains no dialogue. On one side of the stage is Grandma Mary and the Grandchildren, on the other as the opening song begins, the Nativity Scene unfolds for the audience. The intent here is to create almost a dream-like, poignant, surreal setting depicting the birth of Jesus.

Song: "Born to Be Our King"

James: (Verse 1) **In the town of Bethlehem a child was born
Of the line of David born to be a King
An angel came to the shepherds in the field nearby
and this is what he said:**

Staging Note: Although the Angel Choir sings these lines, they are still in the background since this song is still singing about the appearance to the Shepherds.

Angel Choir: **For unto you is born this day
A Savior who is Christ the Lord!
For unto you is born this day
A Savior who is Christ the Lord!**

Staging: Lights come up dimly on Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable, a pin-spotlight should be on the Christ-child, making the baby brighter than everything else.

Grandma
Mary: (Verse 2) **This will be a sign to you, you'll find the child
In a humble setting wrapped in swaddling clothes.
Suddenly a host appeared all praising God
And this is what they said:**

Angel Choir: **Sing glory to God in the highest
Peace on earth and good will to men!
Sing glory to God in the highest
Peace on earth and good will to men!**

Staging: As verse 3 is beginning to be sung, the 3 shepherds will appear at the nativity scene, bowing before the Christ child.

James: (Verse 3) **The shepherds hurried to the site and found the child
In a humble setting wrapped in swaddling clothes.
They told all of their friends about the joy they'd found
And this is what they said:**

Staging: The Innkeeper comes onto the Nativity Scene carrying wood. He sets it

down and the Shepherds sing these lines to him.

Shepherds: **For unto you is born this day
A Savior who is Christ the Lord!
For unto you is born this day
A Savior who is Christ the Lord!**

Staging: Now all the Angel Choir join the nativity scene, the winged Angels (Gabriel, etc) are center stage behind Jesus, Mary & Joseph. The shepherds and Innkeeper are all bowed down, the Angel are singing to the heavens.

Chorus
Reprise: **Sing glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and good will to men!
Sing glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and good will to men!**

Staging: Lighting fades on Grandma Mary and the Grandchildren, as Grandma Mary sings...

Grandma Mary: **In the town of Bethlehem a child was born,
Born to be our King.**

Staging: The lighting on the Nativity Scene should grow, especially the lighting on the baby Jesus. It is particularly effective to put a strong light under the manger, shining upward towards the sky. The Shepherds and Innkeeper are still bowed down before Jesus, as the Angel Choir begins to sing....

Song: "Oh, What a Wonder"

Winged
Angels: (Verse 1) **Oh, what a wonder that God has performed
yes, and oh! what a wonder we see!
Jesus the Lord, Incarnate Word
come to bring to us all liberty!
Oh, what a wonder that God has performed,
oh the wondrous grace we have seen.
Counting the cost, loving the lost,
Jesus has come to redeem!**

Angel
Choir: (Verse 2) **There in a manger, the Eternal Lord
Coming down from the heavens above --
All you, draw near: God's Son is here!
Come to bring to us mercy and love.**

**See in the heavens, the angels rejoice
for Messiah is now in the land.
Prophets of old, long had foretold,
Now, we may too understand his plan!**

Shepherds,
Innkeeper,
Angel Choir: (Ending)

**Come bring your own gifts,
before Him bow down,
as wise men of old did before.
Bring Him your love; give him your life,
Lay it all at the feet of the Lord.
And come as the Shepherds to gather around
Sing His praise as we welcome His birth
Jesus our King, come to redeem
Bringing hope with His presence on earth
Yes, Jesus our King, come to redeem,
Bringing hope everlasting to earth!**

Staging: The scene now fades to complete darkness on the entire stage.

(end of scene)

7 Herod And The Wisemen

Mary: **All seemed so right with the world. Jesus was such a beautiful baby. I felt so honored and blessed by God.**

James: **But all was not right with the world. There were those who were plotting to kill Jesus, even then.**

Staging: (Lights begin to fade on Mary & James and the grandchildren)

James: **King Herod would soon discover that the Messiah was born....**

Staging: Herod is washing his hands in a bowl held by a servant. As he is washing, a messenger enters the room. The servant bows and backs away from Herod.

Herod: (arrogantly) **Yes, what do you have to report.**

Messenger: **Your majesty, there are three men here to see you. I believe they are priests of some kind.**

Herod: (somewhat bored) **Are they Jewish priests?**

Messenger: **No, your majesty. They are from a distant land. I believe they call themselves Magi.**

Herod: (arrogantly) **They're here to pay tribute to the Great King Herod!? Show them in at once you idiot!**

Staging: Messenger leaves. The three wisemen enter the room and bow to Herod. The wisemen speak with an accent.

Wiseman 1: **Your majesty, we are the Magi and have come from a land far to the east.**

Wiseman 2: **The entire heavens have proclaimed a great event in your land and we have followed a most awesome star.**

Wiseman 3: **This star has brought us to you and your country.**

Herod: **You have followed a star? Journeyed to my country? (eyes narrow) Most interesting... tell me more.**

Wiseman 1: **We believe that a new "King" has been born here. We are trying to find him.**

Wiseman 2: **Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?**

Wiseman 3: **We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him!**

Herod: (sits up at full attention) **A new king, you say?**

Wiseman 1: **Oh, much more than a king! A very special ruler!**

Wiseman 2: **He's a living prophecy, a messiah.**

Wiseman 3: **Yes, a powerful King who has dominion over heaven and earth... He is a Savior!!**

Herod: (stands up) **A powerful King?** (almost insulted) **And how can the powerful King Herod help you?**

Wiseman 1: **We are seeking this new king to honor him.**

Wiseman 2: **To shower him with our praises.**

Wiseman 3: **To behold his majesty for ourselves.**

Herod: (deceitfully) **We must know more about this. I, King Herod have decided to help you on your quest.** (motioning for them to sit down next to his throne, clapping his hands for the servant) **We shall make inquiries with the royal priests about your new living prophecy.**

3 Wisemen: (bowing as they sit down) **Thank you, thank you!**

Herod: (claps his hands, the messenger and the servant appear, Herod's voice gets louder and more angry as he speaks) **Get me the royal priests, get me the magicians, get me the astrologers, get me the sages, ... just get me anyone who knows anything about...** (catching himself and changing his tone of voice) **.... anyone who might know about our new born King.** (smiles at the Magi.... turning back to the messenger and servant) **NOW!!**

Messenger &

Servant: (running off stage) **Yes, your majesty right away my King!!**

Herod: (sitting down on his throne, regaining his composure, he addresses the Magi again in a condescending tone) **I'm so distressed that my advisors have not informed me about this newborn King.** (patting himself on the face) **Who more than King Herod should know of his birth? Who more than King Herod should find this child? Who more than King Herod should pay a visit to this new messiah, savior, ruler and living prophecy?**

Priest 1: (enters hurriedly into Herod's presence, still adjusting his cap and gowns)

Herod: **Ah! ... my royal Priest!** (motioning the priest to bow before him)

Priest 1: (humbles himself before Herod) **Your greatness! How can I assist you?**

Herod: (again condescending) **Oh, your holiness... so nice to have you join us!** (getting to the point) **What can you tell me about the great star in the heavens?**

Priest 1: (nervously) **I am not an astrologer, your majesty.... it has been there for at least 2 years. The scriptures tell us, "A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel" (Numbers 24: 17cd - scripture references are provided for information only) I have no idea of its meaning.**

Priest 2: (enters and joins the other priest) **Nor I your majesty, (bowing down) but we are sure that God had set it in the heavens to honor our Great King!** (smiling)

Herod: **So I have been told! (not smiling) But NOT to honor me, but rather a NEW king! (changing his tone again) My honored guests have informed me that we have a living prophecy among us... a Savior! My new friends here say, he is a King of the Jews... tell me, what do you know of this?**

Priest 1: (almost excited) **They speak of the Christ, a prophecy as old as our faith! Isaiah said, (Isaiah 7:14) "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."**

Priest 2: **A messiah, foretold by all the prophets of old. The prophet Jeremiah said: (Jeremiah 23:5) "The days are coming when I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth."**

Herod: (shouting) **Enough!** (calming himself again) **For the sake of our pilgrim friends, tell me WHERE we can find this child!**

Priest 1: **The prophet Micah foretold, his birthplace is to be in Bethlehem.**

Priest 2: (Micah 5:2) **"But you, Bethlehem, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."**

Herod: (laughingly) **Bethlehem? Surely you don't mean that little village south of us?**

Priest 2: **Yes, that is the one. It was also the birthplace of King David, long ago.**

Herod: (with a wave of his hand to dismiss the Priests) **You have been most helpful.**

Staging: The Jewish priests depart leaving Herod alone with the Magi.

Herod: **Come, my new friends. Please have some food with me, and a little wine. You must be tired after your long journey.**

Servant: (Enters with food and wine)

3 wisemen: **Thank you.** (Herod and the 3 wisemen begin to eat.)

Herod: **So, it is written... in a little village just south of us called Bethlehem. This is where we may find the new king.** (leans towards them) **This whole story is most fascinating. I would really like to see this new king myself. There seems to be a great deal of mystery surrounding his arrival. Here is what I want you to do: find the child, and after you are satisfied that he is the new king...**

Staging: The lights fade on Herod and the 3 wisemen and rise on Mary, James and the children.

Herod
and James: **...report back to me so that I may worship him also.**

James: (shaking his head) **But Herod had no intention of worshipping Jesus... just the opposite. He was determined to kill him at any cost so that his own son could become king.**

(end of scene)

8 The Gifts Of The Magi

Mary: **The wisemen came quickly to Bethlehem. Jesus was older now. He was walking and beginning to talk. (pausing to reflect) I remember the visit from the Magi so well.... They brought wonderful, beautiful gifts.**

Esther: **(holding up the ornate box Mary gave her) Were these the gifts, Grandmother?**

Mary: **(smiling) Yes, Esther - those are the very ones! And each one of them represents a special meaning.**

Esther: **(puzzled) What do you mean, Grandmother ... a special meaning?**

Staging: (The Lights begin to fade on Mary & James and the grandchildren and rise on Joseph, Mary and 2 year old Jesus. Joseph is working on a cabinet and Mary is preparing a meal.)

Both Marys: **(Both speak as the scene shifts) The wiseman said, "Greetings to you all! We have come to worship the new king, the Messiah!"**

Wiseman 1: **Greetings to you all! We have come to worship the new king, the Messiah!**

Wiseman 2: **We encountered some shepherds as we came into town. They directed us to your home.**

Wiseman 3: **Is this the child?**

Mary: **Yes, this is our son, Jesus. Won't you please come in?**

Joseph: (rising from his carpentry work, he shakes hands with the men) **Welcome to our home. We are honored to receive such distinguished visitors.**

Wiseman 1: **It is we who are honored.** (All 3 men fall to their knees and bow ceremoniously before Jesus)

Wiseman 2: (rising and addressing Jesus directly) **We bring gifts fitting your royalty, young king.**

Staging: All 3 wisemen open their boxes at the same time, so that the opened lids face Mary, Joseph and Jesus. As Mary looks into each box, she lightly exclaims in surprise: **Gold! ... Frankincense! ...** [Joseph finishes:] **Myrrh!**

Wiseman 1: **Gold... to pay tribute and honor him as a most precious King!**

Wiseman 2: **Frankincense... used by Priests of the highest order to honor Him as the King of all men's lives!**

Wiseman 3: **Myrrh... a gift proclaiming His eternal life and immortality! May you reign long and wisely.**

Mary: (excitedly) **Oh, these are wonderful gifts! I don't know what to say!**

Joseph: **Won't you join us as our guests for dinner? Everything is prepared.**

Wiseman 1: **We would be delighted!** (They all sit on the floor as Mary serves them. After a few moments the 3 wisemen rise to sing.)

Staging: The lights come up on the angel choir. The wisemen and the choir sing "Wisemen Still Seek Him".

Wisemen: **We are all just travelers on this journey called life
Some walk in darkness, while others follow a light
We carry our treasures so close to our hearts
Some we let go of while others never part
Somewhere on this journey we encounter a King
That will change us forever, to Him our treasures bring**

Angels: **Wisemen still seek Him, they follow a star
That leads them to Jesus as travelers a far
Men of great nations and the poor of the earth
All join together to proclaim Christ's birth**

Wisemen: **Sometimes we find ourselves with no room at the inn
Filled with hopes and dreams, none of them with Him
Walk along a winding road, and can't find our way
Look to the Heavens a star as bright as day
Somehow He finds Himself in the hardest of hearts
Whispers I love you, never more to part**

Angels: **Wisemen still seek Him, they follow a star
That leads them to Jesus as travelers a far
Men of great nations and the poor of the earth
All join together to proclaim Christ's birth**

Angels and Wisemen: **Star of Bethlehem shine tonight
Lead us and guide us to His perfect light
Oh come Lord Jesus, we ask Thee to stay**

And renew our spirit on this Christmas day

Wisemen: **We are all just travelers on this journey called life
Been through the darkness, and now we see the light
We carry a treasure more precious than gold
A gift of redemption, His grace we now hold
Someday we'll find ourselves at the foot of the King
With all of God's angels, His praises we'll sing**

Angels: **Wisemen still seek Him, they follow a star
That leads them to Jesus as travelers a far
Men of great nations and the poor of the earth
All join together to proclaim Christ's birth**

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Wiseman 2: (all 3 wisemen prepare to leave) **We have truly enjoyed your
hospitality. We will spend the night here in your village and depart in the morning.
It is a very long journey back to our country.**

Wiseman 3: **A new and longer route for us. We have been told to avoid King
Herod.**

Wiseman 1: **For a wondrous celestial being appeared in our dreams, warning us
not to return to Herod.**
(they bow again as they leave)

Joseph: **Thank you... goodbye.**

Old and young Mary together: **Goodbye, gentle wisemen.**

Staging: The lights rise on Mary & James and the grandchildren, and fade on
Joseph, Mary and 2 year old Jesus.

Mary: **We never saw them again after that. During the night, Joseph woke
up in a panic. Just as God had warned the Magi about Herod, God had given my
husband a terrifying dream... of Herod's soldiers riding into town with swords to
kill my baby, my Jesus. We packed our things that night and left for Egypt.**

James: **...and just in time, too. For Herod's soldiers did come into town that
very day and killed all the little boys they could find. Mary, Joseph and Jesus lived
in Egypt until Herod died, then they moved to Nazareth.**

Mary: **But God gave us protection from Herod's schemes. God's own son,
Jesus, our Lord was ordained for a greater purpose. God was watching over us
every step of the way.**

Esther: **(looking into the box, holding up the Gold) Yes, Jesus - A KING
(holding up the frankincense) A PRIEST, (holding up the Myrrh) ETERNAL!**

(end of scene)

9 Epilogue

Staging: As this scene begins, there is a great commotion, clanging of cymbals, trumpets, shouting and cheering)

Joshua: (the Bridegroom, Joshua enters from stage right) **Esther, I'm here! I saw your lamp burning and my Father has sent me to claim my bride! Esther, it is time to leave and be married.**

Esther: (surprised and excited) **Grandmother! Today is the day!!** (Bending down and kissing Mary) **Thank you, thank you, Grandmother for everything!**

Mary: (gently stroking Esther's cheek) **Go child, your husband calls for you!**

Esther: (turning to leave with Joshua, then turning back to Mary again) **Please put away the lamp for me, I won't be needing that anymore!** (blows out the lamp and hands it to Mary)

Staging: The entire cast follows the bride and groom (Esther & Joshua) as they leave the stage, shouting with much fanfare. Caleb lingers behind. This leaves Mary & Caleb alone on the stage. The entire stage should darken with only a spotlight on Mary & Caleb)

Caleb: **Grandmother? (he crawls up beside Mary)**

Mary: **Yes, Caleb? (reaching for the lamp)**

Caleb: **Will you give me Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh too when I get married?**

Mary: (slight chuckle) **If you believe in Jesus you will have all the treasures in heaven!! Jesus will make you a King and a Priest and give you eternal LIFE!**

Caleb: **Grandmother?**

Mary: **Yes, Caleb?**

Caleb: **Are you putting the lamp away since we don't need it anymore, since nobody is coming and we don't need our lamps to burn?**

Mary: (holding the lamp and re-lighting it) **No child... there is another for whom we need to keep our lamps burning;** (Setting the lamp, now lit, back onto the lamp stand) **For He too will come like a thief in the night, to steal away his bride.** (Mary looks heavenward) **Oh, my dear Jesus, how we wait for your return. You**

lived, and died, and rose as a gift to the entire world... the perfect gift.

Staging: The lights come up on the angel choir. The entire cast returns and sings
“**God Gave The World**” - Copyright 1994 "The Sunday Songs" (BMI).

(Verse 1) **God gave the world the Word made flesh
The tiny babe the silent creche.
God gave the world on this darkest night
His only Son, His glorious light.**

(Chorus) **God gave the world
God gave the world
God gave the world
The perfect gift.**

(Verse 2) **God gave the world what none could give
His child to die, that we might live
God gave the world when hope was gone
A second chance, a bright new dawn.**

(Repeat Chorus) **God gave the world
God gave the world
God gave the world
The perfect gift.**

(Verse 3) **God gave the world the perfect gift
This Holy child our souls to lift
It matters not though we may stray
The gift He gives still gives today.**

(Repeat Chorus) **God gave the world
God gave the world
God gave the world
The perfect gift.
God gave the world
The perfect gift.**

Staging: The lights on the rest of the cast fade away. The scene finishes with Mary sitting in her rocking chair humming “God Gave The World”. As the spotlight fades out on Mary, her voice softens and diminishes as she stands and exits, leaving only the burning lamp visible in the darkness.

(END OF PLAY)

10 Staging

Cast of Characters

Character Name	(L=Lines) Scenes of Appearance (S=Song)								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Narrator	L								
Esther	L	L	L	S	L			L	L-S
Grandmother Mary	L	L	L		L	S	L	L	L-S
Caleb	L	L	L	L-S	L				L-S
Grandchildren	L			S					S
Gabriel		L			L-S				S
Younger Mary		L-S	L-S					L	S
Elizabeth			L-S						S
James			L	L-S	L	S	L		S
Joseph				L				L	S
Innkeeper				L		S			S
Benjamin					L	S			S
Simeon					L	S			S
Angel Choir					S	S		S	S
Isaac					L	S			S
Baby Jesus									
Herod							L		S
Servant							L		S
Messenger							L		S
Wiseman 1							L	L-S	S
Wiseman 2							L	L-S	S
Wiseman 3							L	L-S	S
Priest 1							L		S
Priest 2							L		S
2 year old Jesus									
Joshua									L-S

Yellow denotes a singing part

Properties List

Item Name	Item Name
Lamp, Lamp Stand, and Matches Chairs / Bench / Rocking Chairs Gift boxes (Mary and Wisemen) Bed Roll & Pillow (Mary) Stool (Gabriel) Costumes Coin (Joseph) Shepherd's staffs and rock	Firewood Mirrored ball Ultraviolet Lights Nativity Scene (hay & manger) Wash bowl (Herod) Food and Wine Lumber and Saw (Joseph) Cymbals and Trumpets Spotlights

Visual "Angel" Effects

One of the more difficult aspects of staging a Christmas play or musical is creating the visual effects for the Angels. In our play, we are utilizing an "Angel Choir". This Angel Choir surrounds the outside perimeter of the stage throughout the play. Their presence is not concealed, but rather only "highlighted" during their particular performance during the play. I will try to describe some suggestions for costuming and special effects that will be used throughout the play.

Angel Costumes:

These are simple white "choir" robes or "monk" type robes. For those of you who want to hide or lessen their visibility on stage when they are not performing, the **back/front** style of costume can be easily incorporated. To explain this, imagine your robe one side is pure white (the front), the other side black (the back). When the Angel choir is performing ... they face forward exposing their "white" side and are glowing under blacklight when not performing, they turn around and become a "shadow" of nondescript black. More imaginative productions will even make the backside more elaborate.... painted like foliage or trees, you can use camouflage to create "rocks" and scenery.

For our play, I am suggesting a much more simple approach. Pure white costumes ... and the Angel Choir simply sits down when they are not performing. These chairs surround the outside perimeter in a semi-circle surrounding entire stage area. The Angel Choir simply does not move to distract from the on-going play.

Angel Wings:

A spectacular costume effect that works well for creating **Wings** is to take a dowel rod (about 3' long) and sew on layers of light, white fabric formed in the shape of feathers. These feathers can be tipped with gold glitter or other reflective metallic particles to enhance their beauty. Wings should be tapered and outlined in the shape of bird wings.

Even paper, like tissue paper, can be used and glued onto the dowel rods as feathers. Lightweight is the key word here and the illusion can be spectacular.

The Angel then simply holds the dowel rods wings with their hands, raising them up, when you want to create the "flying" effect for the wings. These lightweight wings can then be easily lowered to their sides when the Angel Choir melts into the background.

It is not necessary to create these "wings" for all the Angel Choir, but simply for 3 or 4 of them. Angels like "Gabriel" that have speaking parts or solo parts should be equipped with these wings and a few others spread around the semi-circle of the Angel Choir.

Special Effects:

Blacklight:

One of the more important special effects will be to make our Angels "glow". Being dressed in all white, blacklight can create this wonderful effect. Here are some *cautions* though about using "black" lighting. Women's makeup and contact lenses can create some unusual and almost "eerie" effects under blacklight. Contact lenses can create eyes "glowing" like a mad dog or wild animal and can ruin that angelic mood you're trying to create..... almost making them look demonic. Some shades of brown, red or pink lipstick or eye shadows (especially those with glitter particles) can turn lips and eyes into wild, green or orange disgusting facial features.

So here are your choices you ask that no one wear their contacts and you apply all the stage make up. To give your Angels a more surreal look, white powder over white makeup will create a nice effect and make your Angels appear all the same. Another technique that works well, is to cover their heads with a simple sheer white scarf that goes down to their shoulders, removing all the facial features completely. Halos made from gold garland, flowers or glitter can be sprayed onto the top of their heads to give them a "crowned" effect. This is also a nice way to "hide" people that are doing multiple parts during the show.... everyone in the Angel Choir looks the same.

Don't forget the hands and shoes. I'd suggest white gloves or white plastic surgical gloves. Make black shoes mandatory for your Angel Choir. Colored shoes - especially red or pink shoes -- tapping to the beat of the music that are glowing orange or green under black light can be distracting and almost comical.

Flying in the Wind

Another effect that will enhance the effect of our *flying* Angels are a few, well placed fans to ruffle their wings and costumes. I only suggest them to be blowing on the Angels that you've outfitted with wings. This is an effect that you don't need if you have overhead ceiling fans. If they can be turned up selectively, they should create enough air-movement to give your Angels the effect you're seeking. Fans can be loud ... so disregard this effect if you can't do it without the noise.

To give your Winged Angels a more dramatic stage presence. Have them stand on the 3rd step of a 6' step ladder. This will raise them about 30" above everyone else and give a nice illusion to the audience and storyline. The step ladders can be easily placed on stage, easy to mount and easy to remove. Naturally, they will need to "backup" the steps so that their full costume is seen. If I were staging this play, I would do it for all the winged angels (left & right) on the 2nd step, and Gabriel at center stage on the 3rd step with the Angel Choir filling in between -- a nice balanced effect.

Smoke or Fog machines

If you want to create a special effect for Gabriel smoke drifting out from under his feet, could give a nice illusion of him standing in mid-air or on a cloud. In Scene 5 (the Angels Visit the Shepherds), the smoke could then drift down towards the Shepherds and surround them. The blacklighting will make the fog light up as well.

All ceiling fans should be stopped to prevent air movement within the room. Ventilation is a key to using a smoke machine and can be easily created using flexible 6" plastic drainage pipe with the holes. This pipe is attached to a "shop vac" that is outside the building. The drainage pipe would be positioned where you can to "stop" the flow of your fog. The holes in the drainage pipe will suck up the fog, expelling it outside.

If you decide to use a fog or smoke machine to enhance the scene, please use caution. A smoke filled room is often less appealing afterwards and not worth it. If you can't properly ventilate the room, don't use this effect at all. Although professional fog won't choke and gag your audience or actors.

Mary's Song

By Lynn Cooper

C F C F Bb F C F

Fath-er God You sent Your an - gel Gab-ri-el to me,

8 C F

greet - ed me as if I were some kind of roy - al - ty. Now my

10 Bb C Bb F C

heart's not changed by the prom - ise I made just mo - ments a-go, but

12 Bb Bb/G Bb F C

I'm a-lone, con-fused and I have some doubts You should know.

15 C F

Though it was writ - ten by the pro-phet I - sa - iah that this would come to be,

17 C F

sure - ly there's some-one 'lot strong - er wor - thi - er than me.

19 Bb Gm Dm

Still You have chos - en who You have chos - en Your prom - ise ful - filled though me. I am a hand-

Mary's Song (page 2)

21 B \flat Gm Dm G

maid. Let it be

Still I have cho - sen whom I have cho - sen My pro - mise ful-filled through thee.

23 C G

done to me, let there be praise for Thee. From this

25 F G B \flat G

earth - ly ves - sel let Your Word be known, age to age Word made flesh from Your Heav - en - ly throne.

27 C

Re - mem - ber I'm be - trothed to Jo - seph so

29 F C

gen - tle, meek and kind; how will he re - act when I tell him,

31 F B \flat C

with Your Child am I? Now I don't want to tell You how this

33 B \flat F C B \flat B \flat /G

plan of Yours should go; have You con - sid - ered all the op - tions is there

Mary's Song (page 3)

35 $B\flat$ F C D

some - one else You know? Let it be done to me, let there be

38 A G A

praise for Thee. From this earth - ly ves - sel let Your Word be known, age to

40 C A D

age Word made flesh from Your Heav - en - ly throne. My soul sings of the

43 G A G A

pro - mise that You bring; the Migh - ty One has done great things Ho - ly is His

45 D G A

Name. My soul sings of the prom - ise that You bring; the Migh - ty One

48 G A D

has done great things Ho - ly is His Name. My soul sings of the

51 G A G A

prom - ise that You bring; the Migh - ty One has done great things Ho - ly is His

53 D G D A D A D

Name.

For The Wonder Of God's Love

(Non-profit Duplication Permitted)

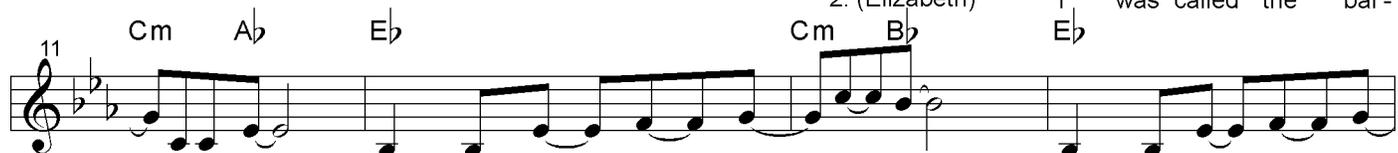
Music by Elton Smith
Words by Larry Holder

CCLI #

Bb Eb Fm Gm Bb Eb Gm Gm Bb Db Bb Eb Bb Eb



1. (Mary) For the won - der of
2. (Elizabeth) I was called the bar -



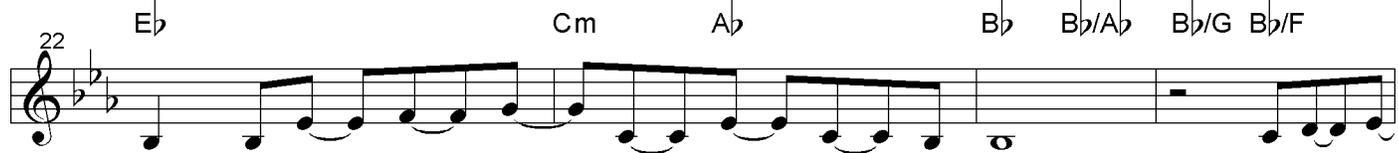
God's love, for the Word sent from a - bove, tell - ing of the child
ren one; Now I am to bear a son who shall call our peo -



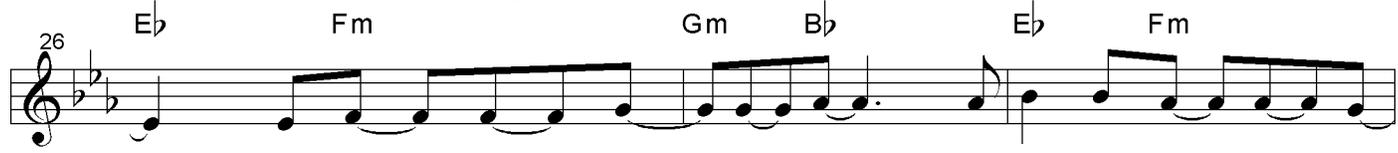
I am to to bear. God for Him - self in hu -
ple to pre - pare for the king - dom now



man to form, as for a hum - ble ba - by born,
to come, come, the High and Ho - ly One,



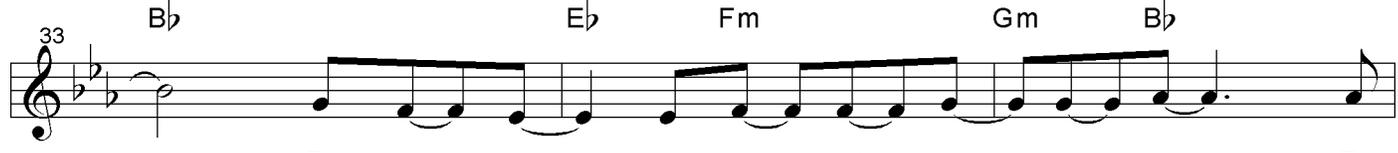
come as to save His peo - ple ev - ery - where. I cry out
as a proph - et, migh - ty to de - clare. I cry out



with joy to God on High: He has not passed His peo -
with joy to God on High: He has not passed His serv -



ple by. This child in me holds the keys of e - ter - ni - ty!
ant by. My shame is gone, in its place, there is a song!



To His hum - ble ser - vant, grace is shown, To
For He heard my ear - nest prayer and plea, the

For The Wonder Of God's Love (page 2)

36 E♭ Fm Gm B♭ D♭ B♭

me His bles - sing is made known; Praised be His Name for-ev-
 Lord of Life brings joy to me; Praised be His Name for-ev-

40 E♭ 2nd time to Coda B♭ Coda Fm Gm

er!
 er! (Mary) To the least of all His serv - ants, God has

46 A♭ B♭ B♭7 Fm

shown His love and care. As we fol - low where He leads

49 Gm Fm B♭

us, in His bless - ing we will share. (Elizabeth) We are

52 E♭ Cm A♭

ves - sels of the Mas - ter, we are ser - vants of the King.

55 B♭ E♭ Gm Cm Cm/B♭

We are hum - bled by the glor - ious news the

58 A♭ B♭ B

ang - el came to bring.

63 E C♯m A E

(Together) For the won - der of God's love, for the Word sent from

For The Wonder Of God's Love (page 3)

66 C#m B E C#m A B B/A
 a - bove, Je - sus comes, the Way of Life to share.

70 B/G# B/F# E C#m A E
 God Him-self in hu - man form, as a hum - ble ba -

74 C#m B E C#m A B B/A
 by born, Come to save His peo - ple ev - ery - where.

78 B/G# B/F# E F#m G#m B E F#m
 We cry out in joy to God on high: He has not passed His peo -

82 G#m B D B
 ple by. In Him, we're free, for He holds

85 E B E F#m
 e - ter - ni - ty. Though we're noth - ing spec - ial on

88 G#m B E F#m G#m B
 our own, His grace and mer - cy now are shown;

91 D B E
 Praised be His Name for - ev - er!

More Than A Child

Words, Music, and Arrangement by
Lawrence Keith Holder

First system of piano accompaniment. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chords: F, C, Dm, Am, Bb. The melody consists of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

Second system of piano accompaniment. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chords: C, Fsus4, F, Fsus4, Fsus2/C. The melody continues with eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

second time flute solo (optional)

First system of vocal and piano accompaniment. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chords: F, C, Dm, Am. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "More than a child born in the hay,". The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

Second system of vocal and piano accompaniment. Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chords: Bb, F/A, Gm, C. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "Je - sus my Lord on that first Christ - mas day." The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

More Than a Child (page 2)

F C Dm Am

More than the son of a car - pen - ter man, You

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. Chord symbols F, C, Dm, and Am are placed above the vocal line.

Bb F/A Gm C F

car - ried the weight of the world in Your Hand. For You for

The second system continues the musical piece. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note pattern. Chord symbols Bb, F/A, Gm, C, and F are placed above the vocal line.

Eb Bb C F C

you are the Hope of my soul, all that I see, and

The third system concludes the page. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Chord symbols Eb, Bb, C, F, and C are placed above the vocal line.

More Than a Child (page 3)

B \flat C F E \flat B \flat

all that I know. In You *yes, in* You there is peace in my

The first system of music features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a B-flat major chord, followed by a C major chord, then an F major chord, an E-flat major chord, and finally a B-flat major chord. The lyrics are: "all that I know. In You *yes, in* You there is peace in my". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef with a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

C F C Dm Am

life, for one day You came, as an - gels pro - claimed, the

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a C major chord, followed by an F major chord, then a C major chord, a D minor chord, and finally an A minor chord. The lyrics are: "life, for one day You came, as an - gels pro - claimed, the". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

B \flat C F $\text{sus}4$ F

Light of the world for us all.

The third system of music concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a B-flat major chord, followed by a C major chord, then an F suspended 4 chord, and finally an F major chord. The lyrics are: "Light of the world for us all.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

More Than a Child (page 4)

repeat for flute solo (optional) flute continues . . .

Fsus4 Fsus2/C F C Dm

More than a star shin - ing that

Am B \flat F/A Gm

night, more than the shep - herds a - mazed by the sight,

C F C Dm Am

more than three wise men with rich - es of gold,

More Than a Child (page 5)

B \flat F/A Gm C F

You, the Mes - si - ah, the pro - phets fore - told, would come, *would*

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a B-flat major key signature and contains five measures. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with eighth-note patterns and a left-hand part with quarter notes. Chord symbols B \flat , F/A, Gm, C, and F are placed above the vocal line.

E \flat B \flat C F C

come bring - ing new - ness and life, free - dom from sin, de -

poco ritard

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has five measures with lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. Chord symbols E \flat , B \flat , C, F, and C are placed above the vocal line. The instruction *poco ritard* is written below the piano part.

B \flat C F E \flat B \flat

liv - 'rance from strife. In You *yes, in* You there is peace e - ver -

The third system concludes the musical score. The vocal line has five measures with lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues. Chord symbols B \flat , C, F, E \flat , and B \flat are placed above the vocal line.

More Than a Child (page 6)

C F C Dm Am

more, for one day You came, as an - gels pro - claimed, the

This system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody in a treble clef and a left-hand bass line in a bass clef. The lyrics are: "more, for one day You came, as an - gels pro - claimed, the". The chords are C, F, C, Dm, and Am.

Bb C Fsus4 F F

Light of the world for us all. Yes, one day You

This system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody in a treble clef and a left-hand bass line in a bass clef. The lyrics are: "Light of the world for us all. Yes, one day You". The chords are Bb, C, Fsus4, F, and F.

C Dm Am Bb *poco ritard...*

came, as an - gels pro - claimed, Re - deem - er and Lord

This system of music concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody in a treble clef and a left-hand bass line in a bass clef. The lyrics are: "came, as an - gels pro - claimed, Re - deem - er and Lord". The chords are C, Dm, Am, and Bb, with a *poco ritard...* marking above the final chord.

More Than a Child (page 7)

C Fsus4 Fsus2/C F

of us all! (A natural)

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system is a vocal line in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It contains three measures of music with lyrics 'of us all!'. The second system is a piano accompaniment with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). It contains three measures of music corresponding to the vocal line. Chord symbols C, Fsus4, Fsus2/C, and F are placed above the vocal line. The final note of the vocal line is marked with a fermata and the instruction '(A natural)'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef.

More Than a Child

Flute Arrangement by Larry Holder
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The musical score is written for a flute in the key of B-flat major (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music, with measure numbers 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 44, 54, 63, and 74 indicated at the beginning of each staff. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings such as accents and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the final staff.

Behold A Miracle

Choral Arrangement
(Non-profit Duplication Permitted)

Lyrics by Linda Edge
and Elton Smith
Music by Elton Smith

CCLI #2444006

A D

Ho - ly! Ho - ly!

7 C# F#m Bm Bm/F E

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! All of hea - ven came to sing!

11 A AMaj7 F#m G#m

Be - hold a mir - ac - le, in the town of

15 C#7 F#m B7 D

Beth - le - hem, with a star shin - ing ov - er - head, and God smil - ing

19 Bm E A AMaj7 F#m G#m

down on us. Be - hold a mir - ac - le, spread the news a -

Behold A Miracle (page 2)

23 C#7 F#m B7 A

cross the land. Come and wor - ship the new-born child as all cre - a - tion

27 D Bm B A D E

sings... Be - hold a mir - ac - le, for un - to you is born a

32 A

King. Oh, you shep - herds in the

37 Bm D E A

fields, lis - ten as the an - gels sing, joy - ful news a - bout the

41 Bm D E E7 A

Christ child: be - hold your new born King. Fol - low close the bright - est

Behold A Miracle (page 3)

45 Bm D E A

45 star on this glor - ious Christ - mas night and you will find the

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 through 48. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: Bm, D, E, and A. The lyrics are: "star on this glor - ious Christ - mas night and you will find the".

49 Bm D E E7

49 Sav - ior be - neath its shin - ing light.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 49 through 52. The key signature is three sharps. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: Bm, D, E, and E7. The lyrics are: "Sav - ior be - neath its shin - ing light.".

53 A D C# F#m

53 Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! All of

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53 through 56. The key signature is three sharps. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, D, C#, and F#m. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! All of".

57 Bm Bm/F E A AMaj7

57 hea - ven came to sing! Be - hold a

Detailed description: This system contains measures 57 through 60. The key signature is three sharps. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: Bm, Bm/F, E, A, and AMaj7. The lyrics are: "hea - ven came to sing! Be - hold a".

61 F#m G#m C#m F#m

61 mir - ac - le, in the town of Beth - le - hem, with a star shin - ing

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 through 64. The key signature is three sharps. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: F#m, G#m, C#m, and F#m. The lyrics are: "mir - ac - le, in the town of Beth - le - hem, with a star shin - ing".

Behold A Miracle (page 4)

65 **B7** **D** **Bm** **E** **A** **AMaj7**

ov - er-head, and God smil - ing down on us. Be - hold a

65

Detailed description: This system contains measures 65 through 68. The treble clef staff shows chords and melodic lines. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "ov - er-head, and God smil - ing down on us. Be - hold a".

69 **F#m** **G#m** **C#7** **F#m**

mir - ac - le, spread the news a - cross the land. Come and wor - ship the

69

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69 through 72. The treble clef staff shows chords and melodic lines. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "mir - ac - le, spread the news a - cross the land. Come and wor - ship the".

73 **B7** **A** **D** **Bm**

new-born child as all cre - a - tion sings... Be - hold a

73

Detailed description: This system contains measures 73 through 76. The treble clef staff shows chords and melodic lines. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "new-born child as all cre - a - tion sings... Be - hold a".

77 **B** **A** **D** **E** **A**

mir - ac - le, for un - to you is born a King.

77

Detailed description: This system contains measures 77 through 81. The treble clef staff shows chords and melodic lines. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "mir - ac - le, for un - to you is born a King.".

82

82

Detailed description: This system contains measures 82 through 84. Both the treble and bass clef staves are empty, indicating a full rest for the music.

Behold A Miracle

CCLI #2444006

(Piano Score)
(Non-profit Duplication Permitted)

Lyrics by Linda Edge
and Elton Smith
Music by Elton Smith
Arrangement by Patsy Stevens

(Left hand plays bottom notes of treble)

5 Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! All of

9 hea - ven came to sing! Be - hold a

13 miracle, in the town of Bethlehem, with a star shin - ing

17 ov - er - head, and God smil - ing down on us. Be - hold a

Behold A Miracle (page 2)

21

21 mir - ac - le, spread the news a - cross the land. Come and wor - ship the

25

25 new-born child as all cre - a - tion sings... Be - hold a mir - ac - le, for

30

30 un - to you is born a King. (Left hand plays bottom notes of treble)

35

35 Oh, you shep - herds in the fields, Lis - ten as the an - gels

39

39 sing, joy - ful news a - bout the Christ child: Be - hold your new born

Behold A Miracle (page 3)

43 King. Fol-low close the bright - est star on this glor - ious Christ - mas

47 night and you will find the Sav - ior be-neath its shin-ing light.

52 Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! All of

57 hea - ven came to sing! Be - hold a

61 mir-ac-le, in the town of Beth - le - hem, with a star shin - ing

Behold A Miracle (page 4)

65

65 ov - er - head, and God smil - ing down on us. Be - hold a

Musical notation for measures 65-68, including treble and bass staves.

69

69 mir - ac - le, spread the news a - cross the land. Come and wor - ship the

Musical notation for measures 69-72, including treble and bass staves.

73

73 new-born child as all cre - a - tion sings... Be - hold a

Musical notation for measures 73-76, including treble and bass staves.

77

77 mir - ac - le, for un - to you is born a King.

Musical notation for measures 77-80, including treble and bass staves.

81

81 (Left hand plays bottom notes of treble) *rit.*

Musical notation for measures 81-84, including treble and bass staves.

Am

Tempo: 2/4 fast, 6/8 slow.

1. In the town of
2. This will be a
3. The shepherds hur-ried

6

Dm

G

Beth-le-hem a child was born of the line of Dav- id -born to
sign to -you you'll find the child - in a humble set- ting wrapped in
to the site and found the child - with his lov- ing par- ents, ly- ing

11

C

E

Am

Dm

be a King -. An an- gel came to shep- herds in the field near by
swadd- ling clo- thes. Sud- den- ly a host app- eared all prais- ing God
in the hay -. They told all of their friends a- bout the joy they'd found

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<http://songsofpraise.org>

Accompaniment by John Tolson 1998

<http://www.btinternet.com/~skitol/index.htm>

Born To Be Our King cont.

16 E Am A

- and this is what he said 'For
 - and this is what they said: 'Sing
 - and how the an-gels said: 'For

21 Dm G C E Am Dm

un- to - you - is - born this day - a - sav-ior - who is
 glo- ry to God - in the high- - est peace on earth- - and good
 un- - to - you - is - born this day - a - sav-ior - who is

26 E Am A Dm G

Christ - the Lord. For un- - to - you - is -
 -will - to men. Sing glo- - ry to God - in the
 Christ - the Lord. For un- - to - you - is -

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 accompaniment: John Tolson 1998

Duplication Permitted

Born To Be Our King cont.

31 C E Am Dm E Am

born this day a - sav - ior - who is Christ - the - Lord
 high - est peace on earth - - and good will - to - men
 born this day a - sav - ior - who is Christ - the Lord.

36 A Dm G C E Am

Coda: Sing glo - ry to God - in the High - est - peace on

41 Dm E Am A Dm

earth - - and good - will - - to - men Sing glo - ry to

Born To Be Our King cont.

46 ^G C E Am Dm E

God - in the high- - est peace on earth - and good will - to -

51 Am Am/G F E

men, peace on earth - and good will - to -

55 Am Am

men. In the town of

Born To Be Our King cont.

60

Dm E Am E Am

Beth-le-hem a child was born, born to be our King. ----

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line in treble clef, starting with a treble clef and a 60. The middle staff is the piano accompaniment in treble clef, and the bottom staff is the bass line in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Beth-le-hem a child was born, born to be our King. ----'. The accompaniment includes chords Dm, E, Am, E, and Am. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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<http://songsofpraise.org>

Accompaniment by John Tolson 1998

<http://www.btinternet.com/~skitol/index.htm>

Oh, What a Wonder

(Non-profit Duplication Permitted)

Music by Steve Israel

Words by Larry Holder and Elton Smith

1 Dm C B \flat A

6 Gm C Asus4 A

11 Dm C/A B \flat C/A

Oh, what a won - der that God has per - formed, yes, and
There, in a man - ger, the E - ter - nal Lord, com - ing

16 Dm C F A F

oh, what a won - der we see: Je - sus the
down from the hea - vens a - bove: All you, draw

21 C Gm Dm B \flat Gm

Lord, In - car - nate Word, come to bring to us all li - ber -
near: God's Son is here, come to bring to us mer - cy and

26 Asus4 A Dm C/A B \flat

ty!
love! Oh, what a won - der that God has per -
See, in the hea - vens, the an - gels re -

31 C/A Dm C F A

formed, oh, the won - drous grace we have seen:
joice, for Mes - si - ah is now in the land.

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israelsongs.com

larryholdermusic.org

songsofpraise.org

Oh, What a Wonder (page 2)

Musical staff 36-40. Chords: Gm, C, F, Bb, Eb. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

Count - ing the cost, lov - ing the lost, Je - sus has
Pro - phets of old long had fore - told; Now, we may,

Musical staff 41-45. Chords: Gm, 1. Asus4, A. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

come to re - deem!
too, un - der

Musical staff 46-50. Chords: 2. Asus4, A, Em. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

stand his plan!

Musical staff 51-55. Chords: D/B, C, D/B, Em, D. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

Musical staff 56-60. Chords: G, B, Am, D7, G. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

Musical staff 61-65. Chords: C, F, Am, Bsus4, B. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

Musical staff 66-70. Chords: Em, D/B, C, D/B, Em. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

Come, bring your own gifts, be - fore Him bow down, as the Wise Men of

Musical staff 71-75. Chords: D, G, B, G, D. The staff contains a melody line with notes and rests.

old did be - fore. Bring Him your love;

Oh, What a Wonder (page 3)

76 Am Em C Am B
give Him your life; lay it all at the feet of the Lord.

81 B7 Em D/B C D/B
And come as the shep-herds to ga - ther a - round; Sing His

86 Em D G B Am
praise as we wel - come His birth. Je - sus our

91 D G C F Am
King, come to re - deem, bring - ing hope with His pre - sence on

96 D B Am D G
earth. Yes, Je - sus our King, come to re -

101 C F B Em
deem, bring - ing hope e - ver - last - ing to earth!

Wisemen Still Seek Him

B F# E F# B2 B B2 B

9 B2 B B2 B

We are all just trav - el - ers on this jour - ney called life;

13 E G#m C#m F#

Some walk in dark - ness, while oth - ers fol - low a light. We

17 B2 B B2 B

car - ry our treas - ures so close to our heart;

21 E G#m C#m F#

Some we let go of while oth - ers nev - er part. And

25 B B/E F#

some - where on this jour - ney we en - count - er a

28 G#m E E/F# C#m F#

King that will change us for - ev - er, to Him our treas - ures bring.

Wisemen Still Seek Him (page 2)

33 B F# E B
And wise - men still seek Him, they fol - low a star that

38 E B E F#
leads them to Je - sus as travel - ers a far.

42 B F# G#m
Men of great na - tions and the poor of the

46 D#m E F# E G#m/F# F#
earth all join to - geth - er to pro - claim Christ's

50 B B2
birth. Some - times we

55 B B2 B E
find our - selves with no room at the inn filled with hopes

59 G#m C#m F B2
and dreams, none of them with Him. Walk a - long a wind -

63 B B2 B E
ing road, and can't find our way; Look to the Heav -

Wisemen Still Seek Him (page 4)

100 F# B B/E B/F#

hem shine to - night. and lead us and guide us to

104 F# E/F# F# B

His per - fect light. Oh come Lord Je - sus, we

108 F# B E F#

ask Thee to stay and re - new our spir - it on

112 E E/F# F# B G#m F#/A# E F#

this Christ - mas day.

119 B2 B B2

We are all just trav - el - ers on this jour - ney called life;

123 B E G#m C#m

Been through the dark - ness, and now we see the light.

127 F# B2 B B2

We car - ry a treas - ure more prec - ious than gold,

131 B E G#m C#m

a gift of re - demp - tion, His grace we now hold.

Wisemen Still Seek Him (page 5)

135 F# B B/E

And some - day we'll find our-selves at the

139 F# G#m E E/F#

foot of the King with all of God's an - gels, His

143 C#m F# B

prais - es we'll sing. And wise - men still

147 F# E B E

seek Him, they fol - low a star that leads them to Je -

151 B E F#

sus as travel - ers a far.

155 B F# G#m D#m

Men of great na - tions and the poor of the earth

159 E F# E G#m/F# F# B

all join to - geth - er to pro - claim Christ's birth.

163 F# E F# B2 B B2 B B2 B

God Gave the World

(The Perfect Gift)

Words and Music by
Ed Dowdall

C/G Evenly

Csus⁴/G

C/G

mp

Csus⁴/G

C

G

C

mf

God gave the world the Word made flesh the

Dm⁷

G

C

C

C/E

ti-ny babe the si-lent creche God gave the world on this

F E Am⁷ C/G Gsus⁴ G

mf

dark- est night His on- ly Son, His glor- ious light.

G C F

2/4 4/4 2/4 4/4 2/4 4/4

f

God gave the world

God gave the world

f

Dm⁷ G F F#dim

Dm⁷ G F F#dim

God gave the world

God gave the world

God gave the world

C/G Am⁷ Dm⁷ *mf* G⁷ C

world ----- the per- fect gift. God

world the per- fect gift.

C G C Dm⁷ G

mp gave the world what none could give His child to die that

mp sweetly, bell-like

C C C/E F E Am⁷

we might live God gave the world when hope was gone a

connected but little pedal

Dm⁷ G⁷ C C *mf*

per- fect gift. God gave the world the

per- fect gift. God gave the world the

G C Dm⁷ G C

per- fect gift. This Ho- ly child our souls to lift. It

per- fect gift. This Ho- ly child our souls to lift. It

C C/E F E Am⁷ C/G

mat- ters not though we may stray, the gift He gives still

mat- ters not though we may stray, the gift He gives still

strongly

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a song. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano accompaniment staves (Right and Left Hand). The first system covers the lyrics 'perfect gift. God gave the world the'. The second system covers 'perfect gift. This Holy child our souls to lift. It'. The third system covers 'matters not though we may stray, the gift He gives still'. Chords are indicated above the piano staves: Dm7, G7, C, C, G, C, Dm7, G, C, C, C/E, F, E, Am7, C/G. Dynamics include 'mf' and 'strongly'. The piano part includes various rhythmic patterns and chord voicings.

Gsus⁴ G C *f* F

lives to-day God gave the world
 lives to-day God gave the world

Dm⁷ G F F[#]dim

God gave the world God gave the
 God gave the world God gave the

C/G Am⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ C⁷

world the per- fect gift,
 world the per- fect gift

F *ff* F#dim C/G Am⁷ *mf* Dm⁷ G⁷
 God gave the world, the per- fect
 God gave the world, the per- fect
mf

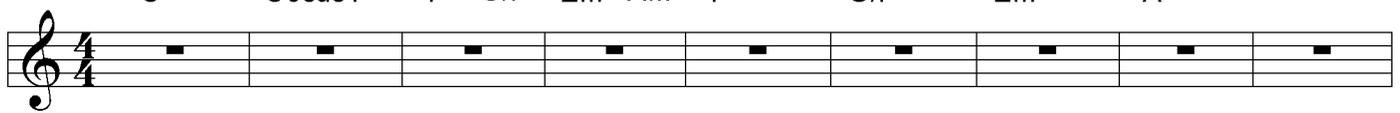
C C/B^b F/A F/G C
 gift. gift.
f

C
p fast arpeggio, like a harp chord

Christ Is Christmas

Words by Russell Adams
Music by Steve Israel

C C9sus4 F G/F Em Am F G/F Em A

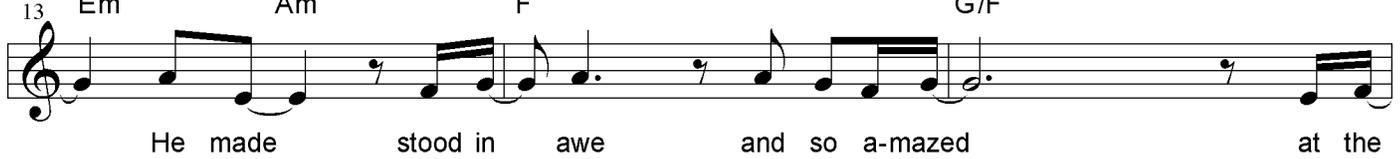


10 C C9sus4 F G/F



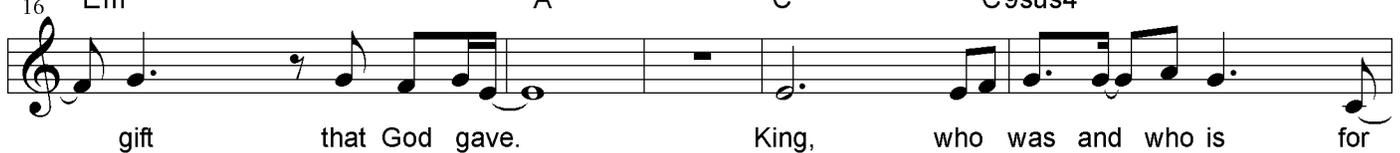
Lo, in a man - ger He lay while all a-round the world

13 Em Am F G/F



He made stood in awe and so a-mazed at the

16 Em A C C9sus4



gift that God gave. King, who was and who is for

21 F G/F Em Am F G/F



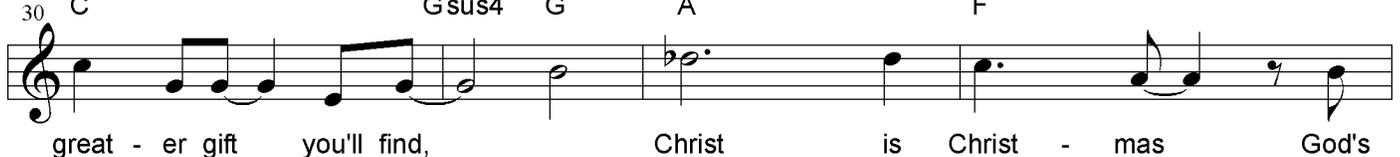
me and you be-came a slave, died and rose up from the grave that

25 Em A A F



you and I might live. Christ is Christ - mas no

30 C Gsus4 G A F



great - er gift you'll find, Christ is Christ - mas God's

Christ Is Christmas (page 2)

34 C Gsus4 G Am Em7 F C/E
 gift to all man-kind. Though rich or poor no great-er gift you'll find

39 Dm7 E Am7 F G Am Em7
 than the gift of God's own Son. The chains of sin, the

42 F C/E Dm7 E A
 wrath of death and hell, through His gift are all un - done.

46 A F C Gsus4 G
 Christ is Christ - mas no great - er gift you'll find,

50 A F C Gsus4 G
 Christ is Christ - mas God's gift to all man-kind.

54 A F C Gsus4 G
 Christ is Christ - mas no great - er gift you'll find,

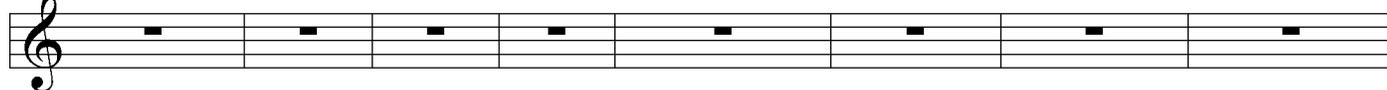
58 A F C Gsus4 G
 Christ is Christ - mas God's gift to all man-kind.

62 A F C Gsus4 G
 Christ is Christ - mas no great - er gift you'll find,

66 A F C Gsus4 G
 Christ is Christ - mas God's gift to all man-kind.

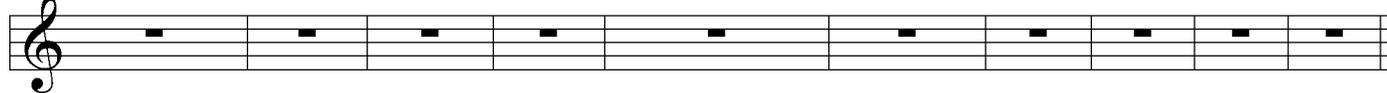
Christ Is Christmas (page 3)

71 Am F Am F C G/B Dm7 Am7 F E



A musical staff in treble clef containing eight measures. Each measure contains a single eighth note on the second line of the staff (F4). Above the staff, the following chords are written: Am, F, Am, F, C G/B, Dm7 Am7, F, and E.

79 Am F Am F C G/B Dm7 Am7 F E



A musical staff in treble clef containing eight measures. Each measure contains a single eighth note on the second line of the staff (F4). Above the staff, the following chords are written: Am, F, Am, F, C G/B, Dm7 Am7, F, and E. The staff ends with a double bar line.