

A script from



“A Christmas Journey”

A Christmas Play

by

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SYNOPSIS

It's the night before the big event, and Christmas is on a journey to the Holy Little City. He and the friends he meets up with along the way must arrive in the Holy Little City by morning, but the road isn't always easy. Even with good friends all around, dangers threaten to keep them from reaching the Holy Little City in time all together and in one piece!

CAST

Christmas:

(CMas) Strong male lead. He is confident and gives confidence to others. He's the man with the plan. A natural leader. He is dressed all in white, head to foot. He's pure as freshly fallen snow. I even suggest a Santa hat, but one that is completely white. He wears white gloves and a white scarf. The one place for color is a red sash he wears, like royalty, that has his name written clearly and boldly on it. The lettering on his sash could be of sparkling silver that reads "Christmas"

Joy - Strong female lead. She is joyous and smiles a lot, but plays the range of emotions. Her coat is bright orange. She could even wear orange and white candy cane striped stockings if you can find them because they're just fun! Her name, Joy, is written in big letters across her top where her heart is. You could make a big heart out of white with her name, Joy, written on it and hang it around her neck like a big name tag or pin it to her costume over her heart like a big brooch. She wears white gloves and a white beret or similar style/size hat and carries a matching orange pack.

Faith: Strong female role. She is a constant throughout always speaking lines that speak to having faith. Her counterpart is Hope. They are like twins. Cast twins if possible! So, they are dressed very similarly. Faith wears a purple coat and purple gloves. Any costume not covered by the coat should be white. She also wears a big blue bow in her hair that matches the blue that Hope wears in her outfit since Faith and Hope are so closely connected. Her name, Faith, is written down the left sleeve of her coat. She carries a matching purple suitcase.

Hope: Strong female role. Hope is doe eyed and very optimistic. Her counterpart/twin is Faith and so they are dressed very similarly. Hope wears a light blue coat and matching blue gloves. Any costume not covered by the coat should be white. She also wears a big purple bow in her hair that matches the yellow that Faith wears in her outfit since Faith and Hope are so closely connected. Her name, Hope, is written down the right sleeve of her coat. She carries a matching blue suitcase.

Doubt: Strong male role. He's dressed head to toe in gray. One shade of gray or all different shades of gray. His name, Doubt, is boldly written over the length of his costume. It could even be written repeatedly in smaller forms all over his clothes. He could be wearing a gray scarf and gloves and maybe even a fedora style hat.

Mercy: Male role. He should have the stature of one who is a judge. If possible, taller than the rest of the cast, excepting, maybe Christmas. He wears a long red robe with white pants and collared shirt visible underneath. He carries a gavel in the belt around his waist. His name, Mercy, is visible as what looks like a medal hanging over his heart. He wears white gloves. Not like winter gloves, but gloves that are worn by church bell choirs, etc. When they go to leave on the journey, he picks up a white scarf and puts it on over his robe.

Peace: Female role. She should have a face that reads as pure innocence. She wears a green coat and green gloves and white earmuffs. Any costume not covered by the coat should be white. She carries a matching messenger style bag.

Generosity:

(Gen) Male role. He is wearing a yellow suit coat with a white collared shirt and white pants. When he escapes, he grabs his very large and full bag, which is a large yellow sack, like one Santa might have, and throws on a pair of white gloves.

Presents: Female role. She is meek but not weak. Dressed all in white, long sleeved white shirt, white skirt, white opaque leggings, except for a giant red bow on top of her head and similarly large bow tied around her waist. A "gift tag" hangs from her waist with her name, Presents, written on it. She wears white gloves too.

Love: A male role, he should be a very small child, considerably smaller/younger than any other children if children are performing this or the only child if adults are acting it. But still able to speak the lines loudly and with confidence and a big smile. He is completely dressed in white. You could even put some sort of sparkling body paint on the visible parts of his skin so he appears to glow/glitter even more than the others when the light hits him.

Prisoners: (P1, P2, P3) male or female, these roles can also be doubled. Dressed all in black.

Shiny Things:

(ST1, ST2, ST3) male or female, these roles can also be doubled. dressed all in black and covered in all sorts of Christmas kitsch...tinsel, stockings, tiny gifts, blinking lights, garland, ornaments, the works.

Angels: Male or female, this role can also be doubled. White robe, angel wings and halo.

Additional Shiny Things and Angels:

Male or female. These can be any extras you want to add to Scene 6: The Land of Shiny Things and Scene 8: Love is Born

When

Present, Christmas Eve and Morning

Time

Without Christmas Carol Interludes: 15-20 minutes

With Christmas Carol Interludes: 25-30 minutes

Props/Set Design/Costumes

Every character needs to have their name physically written on their costume somewhere visible and large enough to read in the space you are presenting this play in. Be creative! Weave it into the costume so it's a part of the character's character! They are dressed like they are going on a journey through cooler winter weather in hats and gloves, etc. Dress them according to your climate at Christmas time. Also, bright colors for the most part. Avoid pastels. Fire engine red! Emerald green! Construction cone orange! Think cartoonish and clean lines.

The set need not be elaborate. In fact, this play is designed so it can accommodate a more sparsely decorated set! So, think big if you want, but know you can go smaller on scenery if you want to. The colors should be bold and bright and cartoon like. Similar to the costuming. No pastels! Fire engine red! Emerald green! Construction cone orange! Some further suggestions for these areas are below.

Scene 1: Introducing Christmas. A road being traveled. You can create a background scene that we will refer to as "The Traveling Scene" of snow covered hilltops and treetops. If you want to and can, create some trees that will stand in the foreground that stand on either side of the stage. A signpost downstage left reads "The Holy Little City" and points in the direction of whichever direction you choose the actors to head in.

Scene 2: Meeting Joy. "The Traveling Scene"

Scene 3: Finding Faith and Hope. "The Traveling Scene"

Scene 4: Mercy's Seat. "The Traveling Scene" and add a bench in the style of what a judge would sit behind in court that stands center stage.

Scene 5: Peace on Earth. "The Traveling Scene"

Scene 6: The Land of Shiny Things. You can keep "The Traveling Scene" and add a large banner that hangs in the back or can be draped across the stage. It's big and loud and shiny. The signpost sign could be replaced by one that has "The Holy Little City" crossed out and crooked. Bring in piles of presents stacked high around the stage. Drape the set in decorations and lots of blinking lights. The lights can already be set around stage and just turned on for this scene. Bring on some already lit and decorated trees draped in a ton of decorations. Think gaudy and not matching and visibly loud for this scene.

Scene 7: Saving Christmas. "The Traveling Scene"

Scene 8: Love is Born! You can keep "The Traveling Scene" up and in front of it create a traditional manger scene with a manger, hay bales, and if possible stand ups of barn animals, sheep, etc. The signpost now reads "Welcome to Bethlehem!"

Director's Notes

This is a children's drama that can be performed by kids for kids and/or families and adults or by adults for kids and/or families and adults. Ultimately, it's a journey to the manger scene...with a twist. The characters are all named for the many attributes of the true spirit of Christmas as well as those things which threaten to undo the real meaning of Christmas. It is packed full of quick, high energy scenes that will fully entertain young children, and lots of overt symbolism that will engage the thinking of school age children and covert symbolism that will challenge adults as well. It's intricately designed to engage the whole church family!

Scene 1: Introducing Christmas

CMas: My name is Christmas. You've probably heard about me. But I wonder if you really know me. Maybe we've met before. Maybe you've even welcomed me into your home. Maybe you don't like me. Maybe I'm not what you expected. Maybe you wish I could stay longer. Maybe you wish I would just go away. I understand. I mean many different things to many different people. But tonight, if you would like to, you can come with me. I'm going on a journey. I have to be there by morning and I'm meeting a few friends along the way. It's very important that we all arrive at the Holy Little City on time, but you're welcome to come with us but remember this: there might be some surprises, good and bad along the way. Come on, let's go! Before you know it, it will be day!

Christmas begins his journey. As between all scenes when the characters continue on their journey they can go completely offstage, or, set up a "travel route" through the aisle(s) that is their road on their way to the Little Holy City and have them travel it in plain sight of the audience between scenes.

A Christmas carol interlude can occur between every scene where the congregation is led in a carol while the scene is changed. Use just one verse or more depending on how much time you need to make a scene change this can be done between every scene change so the audience can join in the Christmas spirit! They don't have to sing every time, or at all! Maybe just play some recorded Christmas carols if you like.

Scene 2: Meeting Joy

In the dark we hear a little giggle as the Christmas carol interlude ends. The laughter starts small then slowly builds until it is loud and the music is gone. Lights up on Joy. She is laughing hysterically at seemingly nothing. Christmas is walking in and meets Joy who continues to laugh while Christmas tries to speak to her.

CMas: Hello? Joy. Joy? *(Still speaking over Joy's laughter, trying to get her attention he finally shouts loud enough for here to hear.)* Joy!

Joy: *(She is a little surprised to notice Christmas and her laughter has slowed, though she still tends to giggle while she speaks. She's just so filled with joy, she can't help it!)* Oh! Hello! Christmas! So good to see you again. *(They hug as friends)* It's that time of year again, isn't it?

CMas: Yes, it is. I'm sorry I haven't seen you more since last year.

Joy: I know. We should be together more. But we're together now and I couldn't be happier!

CMas: Are you ready for the journey?

- Joy:** Most definitely! Do you think it will be much like last time? The road to the Little Holy City is hard sometimes.
- CMas:** I think it may be. But we'll push through. We have each other and we'll meet with more of our friends along the way. We'll make it by morning, Joy. Don't worry.
- Joy:** I believe in you, Christmas. As long as we're together, we'll make it there by morning.
- CMas:** Do you have everything you need?
- Joy:** *(Picking up a backpack and putting it on.)* You know I always carry as much as I possibly can. I have my smile and every ounce of optimism I can muster.
- CMas:** Joy, it's so good to see you again. I've missed you. Let's go. Before we know it, it will be morning!

*A Christmas carol interlude as **Christmas** and **Joy** walk off continuing on their journey.*

Scene 3: Finding Faith and Hope

***Faith, Hope** and **Doubt** enter. **Hope** and **Faith** sit calmly on top of their suitcases. They are looking down the road expectantly. **Doubt** stands near them turned the other way. The lights come up.*

- Doubt:** This is absurd! You've been sitting there for hours! He's not coming! They said they would be here and they're not. Let's just go home!
- Faith:** No. We're not going anywhere except to Bethlehem in the morning.
- Hope:** You can go home if you want to, Doubt, but we're staying. He promised to come and he's never broken his promise before.
- Doubt:** Faith, it's different this year. You're older now. We're all older now. That story, the whole baby in a manger story, it's old! It's out of date! It's not even true, y'know.
- Faith:** That's what you believe. But not me. I *am* older. And maybe a little wiser now too. And I believe it's as true today as it was then. I think I believe it even more this year than I did before.
- Doubt:** That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard! Hope, surely you can see this. Every year you go there and is it really worth it? Haven't you seen it all before? What could you possibly be hoping for?

- Hope:** I hope this year we won't have to leave so soon. I hope this year the road isn't as hard. I hope this year *you* will change your mind about it and not think it's so silly!
- Doubt:** Ha! Good luck with that. What's so special about it anyway?
- Hope:** Why don't you come along and see for yourself?
- Doubt:** I'm not going on that ridiculously long journey! I'm not a fool like you two. Besides, he's probably not even coming...
- Faith:** *(Spotting Christmas and Joy enter, she runs to them hugging them both.)* Christmas! He's here!
- Hope:** And Joy too! *(She also runs and hugs Joy and Christmas)*
- Faith:** *(To Christmas after these four have all greeted one another)* I had no doubt you would come.
- CMas:** Are you ready for the journey?
- Faith:** Yes. Even more than last year.
- Doubt:** *(A little annoyed he has not been recognized he says deliberately to get attention)* Ahem!
- Hope:** *(Remembering him. She goes to him and taking his hand brings him to Christmas and Joy)* You remember Doubt, I'm sure. He was here last year too.
- CMas:** Of course. Are you joining us on the journey?
- Doubt:** I hardly think I'm invited.
- Joy:** Everyone's invited! That's the beauty of it!
- CMas:** You can come. But make no mistake, there will be surprises, unexpected happenings along the way. It *will* change you.
- Doubt:** I'll pass.
- CMas:** Well, you know the road. I'm sure of that.
- Faith:** Goodbye Doubt. Wish us well!
- Hope:** *(Hugging Doubt)* Goodbye Doubt. Maybe I will see you along the journey one of these days.

Hope and Faith pick up their bags and walk off with Christmas And Joy leaving Doubt behind.

Doubt: *(Crosses his arms appearing annoyed at all that has just passed. Then grumbling to himself he speaks.)* They think they can leave me behind? We'll see about that. *(He exits in the opposite direction that the group just left in.)*

A Christmas carol interlude.

Scene 4: Mercy's Seat

Mercy sits on a pedestal behind a bench, like a judge in court, he holds a gavel.

Prisoner 1 enters and falls on her knees in front of Mercy.

Mercy: What is your crime?

P1: I am a thief. I stole what does not belong to me.

Mercy: Are you sorry for it?

P1: I am. I am very sorry.

Mercy: *(Striking his gavel on the bench)* You are forgiven. Go, and sin no more.

Prisoner 1 exits as Prisoner 2 enters and falls down just as the other prisoner did in front of Mercy.

Mercy: And what is your crime?

P2: I lied. And I cheated. I'm so sorry. I won't do it again.

Mercy: You probably will. But try hard not to. *(Strikes his gavel on the bench.)* You are forgiven.

Prisoner 2 exits as Prisoner 3 runs in frantic and shouting and pleading with Mercy.

P3: Mercy! Please! Have mercy! I don't want to be locked up! Please don't let them lock me up! I'm so afraid! I don't want to stay here. Please, let me go! I don't want to be a prisoner anymore! Please! PLEASE! Save me!

Mercy: *(He has left his seat, tucked his gavel in his belt and has come to stand beside Prisoner 3. He faces Prisoner 3 putting his hands on Prisoner 3's shoulders and looking him in the eye, calming him he says)* Listen. You are forgiven.

- P3:** *(Jumping up joyously and he hugs Mercy and speaks)* Oh thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! *(As he exits he accidentally bumps into Christmas who has entered with Joy, Faith and Hope.)* Oh! I'm sorry! He forgave me! I'm not a prisoner anymore! I'm forgiven!
- Mercy:** *(Shouting after him.)* Go! And sin no more!
- CMas:** Do you think he'll listen?
- Mercy:** I hope so. For his sake. Glad to see you Christmas. *(Shakes hands with Christmas)* Joy. Faith and Hope. *(He seems relieved to see them)* Aren't you all a sight for sore eyes?
- Faith:** Has it really been that long since we've all been together?
- Mercy:** It feels like an eternity.
- Hope:** I had hoped to see you more after last year, but it seems we see you least of all. You're so often cooped up here. Don't you ever get to leave?
- Mercy:** Sometimes. When people are feeling unusually forgiving, like tonight. And tomorrow morning. Boy, am I ready to stretch my legs! I've been stuck behind that bench for way too long. I'm ready for the journey.
- CMas:** Well, we couldn't get there without you, Mercy. Are you ready to go?
- Mercy:** I'm ready.
- Joy:** Where's your bag? Didn't you pack anything for the trip?
- Mercy:** All I have to offer is myself.
- CMas:** That will be just enough. We're glad to see you again friend.
- Mercy:** *(They start walking off then hearing something he is startled a little and turns to look back the road the group has just traveled.)* Did you hear that?
- Joy:** Hear what?
- Faith:** I didn't hear anything.
- Mercy:** I thought I heard someone behind us. Did someone else come with you?
- CMas:** Only those who I knew would be here. Come on. It's getting late. And we still have the hardest part of the road ahead of us.

*They exit. When the stage is clear we see **Doubt** enter from the road they came from. He's been following at a distance behind. He exits as he follows the group out slinking about so as not to be seen.*

A Christmas Carol Interlude

Scene 5: Peace on Earth

*A loud sound and many noises fill the air. It's a mix of crying and what seems to be fighting, maybe even the similar noise of gunshots. This could be done with pots and pans and fight noises backstage. **Peace** stands center stage, hands folded in front of her, eyes closed, head and face lifted slightly upwards to the sky. She is an absolute picture of calm amidst the cacophony.*

***Christmas, Joy, Faith, Hope and Mercy** enter. They are covering their ears trying to muffle the noise raging all around them. They move about the stage in all different places completely disoriented and tormented by the sounds all around them. Finally, **Joy** spots **Peace** who is still standing as still as she ever was. **Joy** moves to her.*

Joy: Peace! Peace! *(Finally she moves close enough and shouts loud enough.)* **Peace!**

Peace: *(Opening her eyes, she quickly spots **Joy** and rushes to hug her.)* Joy! What a joy it is to see you!

Joy: *(Still holding her ears)* What? I can't hear you! I can't hear anything here!

Peace: Come closer to me. *(Motioning to the rest of the group that has scattered about her.)* Here. Everyone! Come closer to me. It will stop when you come closer! Closer!

To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at SkitGuys.com!

ENDING:

CMas: Just a few more steps and we'll be there! We'll arrive just in time for it!

Pres: In time for what?

Hope: You'll see!

A Christmas Carol Interlude of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" as they all exit.

Scene 8: Love is Born

The **Angels**, including **Angel 1**, **Angel 2** and **Angel 2** surround **Love** so he cannot be seen and they join in the singing of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" as **Christmas**, **Joy**, **Faith**, **Hope**, **Mercy**, **Generosity** and **Peace** enter. They come near to the **Angels**. Some of them get on their knees, all bow their heads at the sight. "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" ends but the accompaniment to "Silent Night" begins quietly underneath them and continues throughout the scene.

The signpost now reads: "Welcome to Bethlehem!"

Angel 1: For unto us a child is born!

Angel 2: Unto us a son is given!

Angel 3: Today, in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to you! He is the Messiah!
He is Christ, the Lord!

All the **Angels** move away revealing **Love** standing behind them. **Love** stands smiling. He is flooded with light! He's so bright that those who look at him have to squint at first! You can then bring the lights down once **Love** is first revealed. Consider making the light so bright or shining it in such a way that even the audience has to squint for a moment. Like they're at the manger seeing the glory of God revealed for themselves!

Joy: We made it! We're here!

CMas: I told you we would make it. And we're all together.

Christmas moves to **Presents** and guides her to where **Love** is standing. **Presents** is not reluctant. She willingly moves to where **Love** is standing. **Christmas** steps back and **Presents** bows low before **Love**. Now, this next slight costume alteration is very subtle and not meant to be a big moment during the play, but rather, if anyone catches it, just a little play on words. **Presents'** character name is written as "**Presents**" on the gift tag hanging from her waist throughout the whole play. Once she is presented to **Love** as a gift, **Love** flips over the tag with her name on it revealing her new name... "Presence". So, **Christmas Presents** has become **Christmas Presence**. Again, it doesn't have to be a big moment. Just a little detail to add.

Doubt has wandered in quietly. He stands dumbfounded at what he's seeing. **Peace**, **Mercy**, **Generosity** and **Christmas** all move to **Love** surrounding him in a picturesque tableau like those of what we often envision in the manger scene.

Faith: (Moving to **Doubt** she speaks to him.) Faith is being sure of what we hope for...

Hope: (She has moved to speak to **Doubt** too)...and certain of what we do not see.

Faith: Do you believe now?

Doubt: *(He's obviously touched but still unsure.)* Believe? Well...uh... *(rubbing his eyes he looks back at what he's seeing again)* Right now... *(with a shrug of his shoulders)* I don't know what to believe.

Faith: *(With a smile she puts her hand on **Doubt's** shoulder as she speaks.)*
Well, that's a start.

***Faith** and **Hope** move in close to **Love** like all the others as **Doubt** seems to slip away unseen.*

Love: Joy! Peace! Faith and Hope! Mercy and Generosity! And now Presence. Christmas just wouldn't be the same without all of you. *(pause)* Without all of us! When we're all together I know...all is going to be right with the world again! And not just today. *(Taking hold of one of **Presence's** hands)* I've come so I can be with you every day until the end of all time. And I've come so you can share the joy, peace, faith, hope, mercy, generosity...the real meaning of Christmas to the world! You looked for me and so...you found me. And it's so good to see you, friends! *(Loudly and proudly)* Merry Christmas everyone!

ALL: Merry Christmas!

"Joy to the World" begins immediately and loudly and everyone on stage and in the audience sings it together.

THE END