

A BONHOEFFER CHRISTMAS

by
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First Lutheran Church
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Characters:

DAD	M. 30-45. Not too bright but thinks he's quite clever.
SON	M. 10-14. Is clever, quite. Patient with his dad.
VOICE	M. 30-99. Low, rumbling sound.
LIZ	F. 11-15. One of Mary's best friends. Thinks about boys.
AMANDA	F. 11-15. One of Mary's best friends. Concentrates on boys.
MYRANDA	F. 11-15. One of Mary's best friends. Meditates on boys.
CHRISTINA	F. 11-15. One of Mary's best friends. Revels in boys.
LINNEA	F. 5-8. Little sister of one of Mary's best friends.
MARY	F. 14. Mother to be. Sweet, sincere.
GABRIEL	F/M. Ageless. Small, but can project enormous rage/compassion.
PROTÉGÉ	Gabriel's charge. Observant and learning.
JOSEPH	M. 35. A little conceited. Not altogether there.
SHEPHERD 1	F/M. 7-9. Smallest of the three brothers. Concerned and capable.
SHEPHERD 2	M. Planted Audience Volunteer.
SHEPHERD 3	M. Planted Audience Volunteer.
CAPT.	F/M. 4-7. Commander without a command.
SHEEP 1	F/M. 4-7. Scared.
SHEEP 2	F/M. 4-7. Hungry.
SHEEP 3	F/M. 4-7. Wheezy.
KINGS	M. Three Real Audience Volunteers
Q1 – Q6	Speakers

Music:

Magnificat: (Boy Soprano)

And the Angel Said Unto Them: (Countertenor)

Glory to God: (Quartet SATB)

Away in a Manger: Amanda Norman

Neil Hulbert's organ on *Messiah*. His piano for *Lo, How a Rose 'er Blooming, Away in a Manger and Silent Night*.

Production Notes:

All characters live in their world but look and sound modern. They wear what young girls and adolescent boys wear today. There are no bath robes or tinsel halos but sheep should be woolly and angels angelic. Candles and flashlights are used for effect. If the tiny sheeplings are not up to their scene it should be cut.

Director's Notes:

As a writer, tinkering with the Bible is always scary. If I indulge myself too far afield, the point is lost and the multitudes get mad, but if I remain historically narrow, the camels make a mess on the carpet. I wanted to do three things with this most beautiful of stories: show the importance of little ones, make it an intergenerational event, and bring it close to home for our young actors. I hope I have, and I hope you enjoy it!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "If we want to be part of these events, Advent and Christmas, we cannot just sit there like a theatre audience and enjoy all the lovely pictures. Instead, we ourselves will be caught up in this action, this reversal of all things; we must become actors on this stage." It is to this ideal that we aim our little play.

Costumes:

Props:

Prelude

Scene 1

Dad stuff
Son stuff
Dark silhouette

3 flashlights for DAD and SON
V.O.
Flashlights behind silhouette
Water Fabric

Scene 2

Mary in blue?
Three girls
GABRIEL clothes

Pillow for MARY, CAROL 2
Large Hammer w/ sound
V.O.
Someone under GABRIEL
Flashpot ?
Red and Green lights
Pencil and paper for JOE
Oversized boxing glove
LBW

Scene 3

Sundry sheep w/ caps
2 cool shepherds
ANGEL/LORD gossamer

Shepherd's staffs
candle
2 sunglasses
2 large bath robes/hoods
SPOT on ANGEL OF THE LORD
Fan and smoke also ?

Scene 4

Grass straws to chew
Inhaler

Scene 5

Manger w/ yellow light
Star
Fluttering angels on poles
Soft lights
candles

(The Pageant takes place in a church. On either side of the main playing area are giant stained glass pictures. The STAGE LEFT picture shows Christ on the cross. Christ the new born is STAGE RIGHT. The rest of the stage is blank.)

(During group singing, the lights should be high enough for the congregation to see the hymn.)

CAROL 1:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel --LBW 34
Congregation

Scene 1

(DAD and SON come down the center aisle waving a flashlight, looking for something.)

DAD

(With flashlight. Going to the Crucifixion stained window.)

I know it's here somewhere, Son. It has the whole story, you'll see. Right down here. This is it. This is what I wanted to show you. Right there. I told you. Didn't I tell you? Look. Look right there. Isn't it beautiful? Behold, son. The stained glass Christmas story!

SON

Dad. I don't think it looks like when He got born. It looks more like when He got dead.

DAD

No! ...Oh. Yeah... You may be right, Son. Now that I have a clear view, it does have a kind of cross shape to it. ...Let me see. I know Christmas is around here somewhere...

SON

Dad!

DAD

What?

SON

There are people here, staring at us!

DAD

Just ignore them.

(Both cross to Christmas stained glass.)

DAD

...Come here! It's this one, Son. Look. This one is alive with Christmas... Behold: The stained glass Christmas story!

SON

I think you've hit it this time, Dad.

DAD

Look at the color, the majesty, the little, teeny, itty, bitty baby... That can't be our God!?

SON

I believe that's Him, Dad.

DAD

But they painted Him too small!

SON

That's the way he was.

DAD

Well, Look At Him! Everyone and Anyone starts out like that!

(DAD and SON shine their lights on SON's face.)

SON

I do believe that's the idea, Dear Dad.

DAD

I just wanted to teach you about the True Christmas story, about 'GOD' in all His terrible splendor and they paint me a baby.

SON

But that's how it started. 'In the beginning was the Word...'

DAD

Oh, I know this one! Genesis, right?! 'In the beginning God created... Stuff...'

SON

The Gospel of John. ...'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...'

(Lights out. Up SPECIAL on WATER FABRIC,
with man's silhouette, DSC.)

VOICE (VO)

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has understood it not.

(BLACK OUT.)

Scene 2

(LIGHTS to Full. MARY and other GIRLS come down
Isle Right.)

GIRLS

Mary and Joseph sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G! First comes
love,

AMANDA

Wait a minute! Stop, STOP! I can't work like this! Hit the lights!
(House Lights on.) Where's the director? Get me the director now!
I want to see the d...

DIRECTOR

What's the matter, Amanda?

AMANDA

All the good parts are already taken.

DIRECTOR

What do you mean?

AMANDA

For example, the BOY, OK so that goes to your very own son.
Convenient. But it could have been a girl! I could play a girl!

And the DAD. I can play an old dottering fool! (To DAD) No offence. And what about MARY? I should be MARY! That should be...

DIRECTOR

We can't do this right now...

AMANDA

I'm tell'n ya, I could do a better job than Tabitha with my hands tied behind my back. (To TABITHA) No offense.

DIRECTOR

This is opening night, Amanda! We're on. Right now!

AMANDA

Well of course we are. But how good will it be, really, without me in the lead?

DIRECTOR

Let's just all try to do the best we can and see how it works out. OK? ...Please? ...For the sake of Christmas?

AMANDA

Oh, all right...

DIRECTOR

You're OK.

AMANDA

Yeah. Sure. Why not.

DIRECTOR

From the top of Scene Two, girls. (After some commotion.) All right? And... Begin.

(AMANDA remains unenthusiastic.)

GIRLS

Mary and Joseph sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G! First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes baby in the baby carriage!

MARY

(Laughing.)

You guys are so immature!

AMANDA

(To herself.)

Look who's talking...

CRISTINA

Has he put his arm around you yet?

MARY

No!

LIZ

Has he kissed you?

MARY

Yuck!

AMANDA

Great interpretation there...

CRISTINA

Oh, come on. You know you like him.

MARY

I know nothing of the kind.

LINNEA

Father says he'd make a fine catch for any girl because he has his own business. But his hands are probably full of slivers!

(GIRLS giggle.)

MARY

They are not!

LIZ

How do you know?

MARY

Because ...I held one.

CRISTINA and LIZ

You held his hand?!

MARY

Actually he held my hand.

GIRLS

What was it like? No you didn't! How was it? Did you like it?

MARY

His hands are rough and strong, thick with muscle. They wrap all the way around mine. But gentle. His hands are very gentle. Like they could catch a baby bird in flight, without letting one feather fall.

LINNEA and LIZ

...You are so lucky...

CRISTINA

Not lucky, girls. Blessed!

GIRLS

Yes, certainly! That's right. Blessed from God. Yahweh has blessed you, Mary.

MARY

Well. Here I am. I'll see you guys tomorrow? "...I'll see you guys..." (To Amanda) I said, "I'll see you guys *tomorrow!*"

AMANDA

Right, right, right... (Overly Sweet.) Gee, Mary. You're the sweetest girl in town and we all like to hang out with you... (Under her breath) ...untalented, little worm who can't even...

CRISTINA

(Cutting AMANDA off.)

Good bye, Mary.

MARY

Shalom, girls.

GIRLS

Shalom, Mary. Shalom. Shalom.

CRISTINA

Shalom, Highly Favored One.

(GIRLS EXIT.)

MARY

Shalom, Shalom... Mother, Father! Hello? (Goes into her 'room'.)
Oh. Father, I...

GABRIEL

Cristina is right.

MARY

What are you doing...?

GABRIEL

She called you Highly Favored One. And so you are, Mary. The Lord is with you...

MARY

Get out! Mother! Fa...

GABRIEL

Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

MARY

But, who...?

GABRIEL

Come, Mary. You know me... From your dreams.

MARY

(MARY sits.)

My dream...

GABRIEL

I'm Gabriel. This is my Protégé. (Who curtsies.)

MARY

Hi. I thought angels were terrible, frightful creatures.

GABRIEL

Only when we need to be. I have more news for you, Highly Favored One. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.

MARY

How can this be, since I have never known a man?... You know, in the biblical sense.

GABRIEL

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called The Son of God.

CAROL 2

Magnificat

Søren sings with piano.

(As song proceeds, MARY, GABRIEL and PROTÉGÉ kneel at alter. MARY silently becomes pregnant.)

MARY

I must tell my loving betrothed! Joseph! Darling!

(MARY exits. We hear JOSEPH scream. MARY enters and crosses off other side, in tears.)

GABRIEL

Please don't cry, Mary! Please!... Oh, MEN! Maybe... (To PROTÉGÉ) Maybe I'll just coax the boy along... Stand back, Kid. This may get messy. Oh, Joseph... Son of David... (Shakes him and yells in his face.) Joseph!!

JOSEPH

I didn't touch her! I swear it!

GABRIEL

(Messages JOSEPH into a lull.)

It's me, Gabriel. But don't worry. You're dreaming...

JOSEPH

I'm asleep?

GABRIEL

That's right.

(GABRIEL grabs him around the throat, tugs him Down Stage.)

GABRIEL

Now, you listen to me, Buster! You've been giving my friend Mary a really hard time.

JOSEPH

Ow! In case you haven't noticed, she's pregnant! Ow...

GABRIEL

But she's carrying the child of God... It's a miracle!

JOSEPH

I've heard that line before.

VOICE (v.o.)

(As GABRIEL, who grows to a great height.)
Why I ought to smite you right here and now, human!

JOSEPH

No! Please! I'll do anything!!

GABRIEL

(Back to normal height.)
Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

JOSEPH

...The What?

GABRIEL

The Holy Spirit!

JOSEPH

...Our Holy Spirit?

GABRIEL

Yes, you numskull! She will give birth to a son and... You'd better write this all down! (GABRIEL plucks a feather and hands it JOSEPH.) Here. Use this.

JOSEPH

(Writing.)
'Give birth to a (Sounding out.) s,o,n...'

GABRIEL

She will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus...

JOSEPH

Wait. Jesus? How do you spell that?

GABRIEL

(Grabbing JOSEPH's scroll and quill to write it herself.)
...Give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. Now, will you accept Mary as your wife? (JOSEPH nods his head vigorously.) Will you accept God's only son inside her? (Again JOSEPH nods his head.) Will you... Take a bath!
(Heavenward, as she and PROTÉGÉ escort JOSEPH Off

Stage.)

I told You we didn't need men but do You listen to me? Nooooo!

(DAD and SON ENTER.)

DAD

And so you see Son, Joseph was a kind and loving husband to keep Mary as his wife even though he didn't know her... In the biblical sense, that is.

SON

Dad. Do you know, 'Lo, How a Rose 'er Blooming?

DAD

No. But if you sing a few bars, I'll hum along!

SON

...It IS a song, Dad. An old tune, with an ancient text. With succinct counterpoint, Es Ist Ein Ros uses the metaphor of a rose bush to show that Christ is the direct descendent of Jesse... The father of David?

DAD

There are so many people in the Bible!

SON

Be that as it may, Dear Dad, I thought maybe we could sing it together. I'll start off with the first verse.

CAROL 3

Lo, How a Rose 'er Blooming

SON sings v. 1

Piano

SON

Do you know it, Dad?

DAD

I'll manage.

SON

And if all of you are not too busy staring at us, you could sing it too. It's in the program.

CAROL 3 (Cont.)

Lo, How a Rose 'er Blooming

Everyone sings v. 2 - 3
Piano

Scene 3

(AMANDA ENTERS talking on her cell phone.)

AMANDA

No! No, It's not my color! Listen. I'll use the red sequined mini skirt but not the blue... No. NO! I don't care whose bathrobe it is! ...Well then it's about time shepherds wore red sequins, isn't it! You remember whose coat tails you're riding on, old lady! (Suddenly sweet.) ...No thanks. I'll get a ride. Bye, Mom.

(AMANDA sees the congregation, realizes she's on stage alone and begins to tap dance while she sings a bit of "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow". CRISTINA enters.)

CRISTINA

Amanda! What are you doing!

AMANDA

I'm showing 'em who the real star is!

CRISTINA

It's not about you!

AMANDA

It's a 2000 year old story that needs a little spice. Stand back and let the pepper grind and shake!

CRISTINA

Amanda, you really need to watch the rest of the pageant.

AMANDA

I already know how it ends!

CRISTINA

(Escorting AMANDA Down Front to sit in Audience.)

I don't think you do. Let's just sit here and see what happens.

DAD

(Looking in his bible.)

Just a minute... Just one minute... I know we're around here somewhere... Are we to the night skies gleaming with adoring angles yet?

SON

We first have to get the shepherds out here.

DAD

Shepherds?!

SON

You *did* remember the shepherds, Dear Dad. ...Didn't you?

DAD

We have a little problem here, Son.

SON

How could you forget about the!... (DAD droops his head.) I'm sorry. It's OK. We'll find a way, Dad. I. I know! What if we...

(SON whispers his idea to DAD.)

DAD

I don't see why not. Give it a try.

SON

Ladies and gentlemen, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a man who loved Jesus, but knew firsthand the evil people do. He once said, "We want to be a part of these events, Advent and Christmas, and we cannot just expect to sit there like a *theatre audience* and enjoy all the lovely pictures." So therefore, My dad and I would like to invite two lucky persons to come up, here and... be... shepherds... please? ...anyone?

DAD

Just choose someone.

SON

All right. You, sir. And you, sir.

(As SON escorts the SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS
DR exit and OFF.)

If you both wouldn't mind. Just follow me. Let me show you what's behind Door Number One! Carroll Marol will take care of you back there. And thank you for volunteering to destroy any dignity you ever had!

DAD

(Looking in his bible.)

Found It! Here we are, Son. I found it. "And in those days, Caesar Augustus made a decree that a consensus should be made...."

SON

Caesar Augustus made a Decree that a Census should be Taken. A census, Dad, not *consensus*. He wanted to count his people, not lead a management seminar.

DAD

Right. The highly effective king wanted to count how many people lived in his kingdom... Probably to tax everyone to pay for his private wars.

SON

If he was the strongest king in the world, why would he have to declare war on weaker countries?

DAD

...Don't interrupt, Boy. Anyway... Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem...

SON

Bethlehem...

DAD

Bethlehem to be counted.

SON

You see, as a patrilineal society, every man went to the home town of his lineage to register. Joseph was a descendant of King David ergo he went to Bethlehem.

DAD

...Exactly! Who's telling this story, anyway!

SON

You are, Dad. And doing quite a superfluous job, might I add.

DAD

...Thank you, Son. The shepherds were abiding in a field, keeping watch over their flock by night!

SHEPHERD 1

(Scared. Singing 'Silent Night' with one lit candle and staff.)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is... Dark.
I'd give anything

To be in bed.
Wish my big brothers
Didn't sneak off.
When we get back home
I'll tell Dad.

He'll make sure they get what's theirs!

(SHEPHERD 1 whistles tune a little. SHEPHERD
VOLUNTEER 2 and SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 3
sneak up behind SHEPHERD 1.)

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS 2 and 3

Boo.

SHEPHERD 1

(Runs, yelling.)

Aaaaaahh! (Stops, looks at his brothers... Yells some more.)
Aaaaaahh!

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 2

Shhhh! You'll wake the whole country side, Little Dude!

SHEPHERD 1

Dad told you not to sneak off like that!

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 3

Lighten up, Little Man. We just went into town...

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 2

Look what we got!

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 3

Yeah, check this out...

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS 2 and 3

Shepherds in sunglasses!

SHEPHERD 1

Why did you get sunglasses? We're keeping watch over our flock by
Night!

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 2

It's that crazy star, Little Man.

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 3

It's blinding us, Dude!

SHEPHERD 1

Look! There goes a lamb!

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS 2 and 3

(Blind. Groping.)

Where?

SHEPHERD 1

Never mind. I'll get him myself. This night, the world depends upon the little guy!

(SHEPHERD 1 chases CAPT. Off Stage.)

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 2

You are so cool in those shades, Dude.

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 3

No man. You are way cool.

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 2

I got it! You know what we are?

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER 3

I'm with you, Brother, mine.

SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS 2 and 3

We're dual, cool, Dudes!

CAROL 4

And the Angel Said Unto Them --MESSIAH no. 15

Jon + Neil's organ

(Not singing the first measure + 1.)

(During *And the Angel Said Unto Them*, flood lights pour on SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS 2 and 3 as they slowly draw to the ANGEL QUARTET, removing their sunglasses, then, transfixed, exit Down Left as SHEPHERD 1 enters with CAPT.)

SHEPHERD 1

Don't worry, guys! I got him... Guys? Guys! You're NOT going to scare me this time! Do what you may! I'm made of stone! Nothing can make me frightened or sore afraid...

CAROL 4 (Cont'd)

Glory to God --MESSIAH no. 17
SATB Quartet + Neil's organ
(Only the first nine measures.)

SHEPHERD 1

...Did you guys sing something? ...Please tell me you've been taking lessons on mom's autoharp and you just sang something uncharacteristically beautiful...

CAROL 4 (*Cont'd*)
Glory to God --MESSIAH no. 17
(Only measures 10 - 17.)
SATB Quartet + Neil's organ

SHEPHERD 1

(Being flooded with white light and seeing the ANGEL QUARTET.)

...Good Golly Miss. Molly.

(SHEPHERD 1 exits Left.)

Scene 4

CAPT.

Soldiers! This is our big chance to escape!

SHEEP 1

But Captain, I feel safe with that boy.

CAPT.

That's nonsense, soldier. We're going to escape and that's all there is to it! Are you with me?

ALL

Yes!

SHEEP 1

If we must.

SHEEP 2

I have a question, Sir.

CAPT.

What.

SHEEP 2

What shall we do for food while we're on the, on the you-know-what...

CAPT.

On the what? Bleat it out, Soldier!

SHEEP 2

What will we do for food when we're on the lamb, Sir!

(Sheep all groan, 'Baaaa'.)

CAPT.

...Are you blind, Man? Look about you!

SHEEP 3

(Jumping, raising his hand excitedly.)

Sir. You-who, Mr. Sir...

CAPT.

Settle down, soldier!

SHEEP 3

(Taking a hit on his inhaler.)

But Sir! I can't run away. I have asthma!

(SHEEP start following SHEPEHERDS. Exit Down Left.)

CAPT.

Grass eaters don't have asthma! This is our chance to... Wait! Stop! Please...? '...All We Like Sheep...' (Exits Left.)

Scene 5

(AMANDA and CRISTINA stand Down Front.)

AMANDA

Cristina. Look what I've found in this book.

CRISTINA

What is it?

AMANDA

It's a quote by Bonhoeffer. Listen: 'Mighty God is the name of this *child*. The child in the manger is none other than God. Nothing greater can be said: God became a child.' I. ...I need to do my best, not for me, not so people see me, notice me. But for Him. Use my talents for the Child. ...Oh Christina. I treated, everyone. I've been so ugly to everyone. I...

(CHRISTINA embraces AMANDA for a long pause. AMANDA whispers something to CHRISTINA, who nods. They both turn straight UP STAGE as CHRISTINA sits, holding AMANDA's hand. Lights Lower. With back to audience, Amanda faces the manger UP STAGE and sings pure.)

CAROL 5

Away in a Manger

v.1 standard tune, v. 2 English tune.

Amanda with Piano

SON

...So in a small barn on the outskirts of a forgotten town they gathered: the angel, the shepherds, Joseph and Mary...

DAD

And the Three Kings?

SON

Yes, Dad. And the... The Three Kings! We need Kings!

DAD

Don't look at me, Son!

SON

Ladies and Gentlemen, it seems as though you've caught us with our kings down. So, again, if any of you would indulge us the favor of acting out the parts of the kings we would surly appreciate it.

DAD

Just go pick three.

SON

Which ones?

DAD

Any ones! ...But be sure to get Ivar Haugen. ...He already looks like an old king!

SON

OK. Let's just use these three. They look... Regal?

DAD

A regular Royal Flush, Son,

SON

Try to look kingly, gentlemen. ...Not too much, though. Remember:
It's not about you!

(As each of the Bonhoeffer lines is spoken, each
actor takes his place in the manger scene.)

SON

The great Lutheran Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, tells us
that...

Q1

All who at the manger finally lay down all power and honor...

Q2

All who at the manger finally lay down all prestige...

Q3 (AMANDA)

All who at the manger finally lay down all vanity, all arrogance,
all self-will...

Q4

All who take their place among the lowly

Q5

And let God alone be high...

Q6

All who see the glory of God in the lowliness of the child in the
manger.

Q1

These.

Q2

These.

Q3

These.

Q1

These are the ones who will truly...

Q2

Truly.

Q3

Truly.

Q1, Q2 and Q3

These are the ones who will truly celebrate Christmas.

SON

It is at the manger where we all gather. Those with power and those without. We all come, searching for something beautiful, a miracle... And from nothing comes everything. The tiny, itty, bitty baby who was and is and will forevermore be... Savior.

(SON looks into manger, is bathed in warm light.)

SON

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me everything I need to know about the real Christmas.

DAD

Just trying to be a Dad...

SON

Let's end by singing the favorite of all Christmas hymns, Silent Night. It's in your program. We'll sing the first verse or two with Neil playing the piano then he'll drop out for us to sing the last verses a capella.

DAD

There's just one last thing, Son.

SON

At this point, Dear Dad, what could that possibly be?

DAD

(Looking at SON, smiling. After a long pause.)
...Merry Christmas, Darling Boy.

SON

...Merry Christmas, Sweet Father. And Merry Christmas to us all.

CAROL 6

Silent Night LBW 65

SON v. 1 with piano. Congregation v. 2-3 (more if available)
a capella

(Slowly, all actors exit over CAROL 7.
AMANDA leans on her friends as they exit.
MARY hugs JOSEPH as they leave. Last to go is

PROTÉGÉ and GABRIEL, who first caresses
Jesus then whispers something to Him. With a dark,
empty stage, Jesus' manger remains aglow.)

THE END.