

A Christmas Wish: The Musical

Then and Now: A Journey to Hope from Despair

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[Choir sings 2 songs.]

Act 1: Shadows of Despair

Scene A: A sparsely furnished stable adorned with a single flickering candle. The area feels empty and somber. Mary and Joseph sit apart from each other, looking worn out yet bewildered by the birth of Jesus. Mary is holding their sleeping infant baby.

Narrator: ¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. ² This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵ to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough—because there was no room for them at the lodging place. (Luke 2:1–7)

[Mary gazes out into the distance. Joseph sits on the ground, his face buried in his hands.]

Mary: It feels so strange being in such a dismal place, all alone. I guess I thought that this day would be so different. I wish we could be rejoicing with others over the birth of our baby boy.

(Looking around) But this...this feels so empty.

Joseph: (Sighs) I know, Mary. I really thought the innkeeper would have let you stay indoors for the night. I wish the world could pause long enough to consider just how precious new life truly is. To refuse a room to a mother giving birth is really sad. No wonder the angel of the Lord told me, **“Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20b–21)**

[Choir sings 1 song.]

Mary: This is not the life either of us thought we would be having right now. This should be a joyful time but it's hard to find hope when everything seems to have crumbled around us. I can only imagine the life that our baby boy will have in this cold world.

Joseph: I know God is in control and He knows where we are and what we’re going through, but right now I am finding it difficult to have faith in Him. It’s hard to have faith even in myself! [The lights on their scene dim.]

Scene B: A sparsely furnished living room adorned with a single flickering candle and no decorations. The room feels empty and somber. Our main characters, Sophia and Tony, a young

couple, sit apart from each other, lost in their own despair. Sophia is holding their sleeping infant baby, Lilly. Sophia gazes out into the distance. Tony sits on a chair, his face buried in his hands.

Sophia: Another Christmas with no food, no gifts, and no friends. I wish we could be rejoicing with others over the birth of our little baby Lilly.

(Looking around) But this...this feels so empty.

Tony: (Sighs) I know, Sophia. But life has dealt us a tough hand lately. It's hard to find hope when everything seems to always crumble around us. The only break we get is when stuff breaks. If we didn't have bad luck, we wouldn't have any luck at all. I want to believe that God exists, that He is in control, and that He knows where we are and what we're going through, and right now I am finding it difficult to even have faith in myself!

[The lights on their scene dim.]

Act 2: A Ray of Light

Scene A: A sparsely furnished stable adorned with a single flickering candle. The area feels empty and somber. Mary and Joseph sit apart from each other, looking worn out yet bewildered by the birth of Jesus. Mary is holding their sleeping infant baby.

Narrator: ⁸ In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. ¹² This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough." ¹³ Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors! ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. ¹⁷ After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told. (Luke 2:8–20)

[Choir sings 1 song.]

Three Shepherds: (Enter the stables) Praise God and give glory to Him! Today the Messiah, the Savior, is born. Let us rejoice and proclaim the glory of the Lord. May peace come to mankind! We have taken time from our sheep to see the Savior!

Mary: In *this* economy? Thank you so much! This is truly an answer to prayer!

Mary: It is just as the angel of the Lord told me when he said, ^{28b} **“Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you.”** ²⁹ **But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.** ³⁰ **Then the angel told her: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.** ³¹ **Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name Jesus.** ³² **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”** (Luke 1:28b–32)

Joseph: Yes, there is a ray of light in the darkness of this difficult time!

Mary: God always provides a ray of hope!

Joseph: Just think, Mary, our little baby Jesus is the Son of the Most High. He’s lying here in this manger but yet He holds the keys to the Kingdom of God. [The lights on their scene dim and the shepherds depart.]

Scene B: (Putting down baby Lillie) Sophia finds a small Christmas tree in an old box in the corner of their small living room.

Sophia: Look, Tony, I found this little tree that I used to set up in my room when I was a child. Let’s set it up.

Tony: Why? What good would it do? It’s nothing but a bear tree.

Sophia: (Taking Tony's hand) We can't let hopelessness consume us, Tony. We must find a way to rekindle the Christmas spirit within ourselves. We need to find a way to have some joy for our baby. I don't want him to grow up thinking the Christmas miracle is nothing but Christmas misery.

Tony: (Kneeling down) OK. I give up. Let’s try to decorate it. But with what?

Older couple: (knock on the door).

Tony: (Answers the door pensively): Hi, how are *you*?

Older couple: The Lord put on our hearts to bring you these gifts.

Sophia: In *this* economy? Thank you so much! We don’t want to take from y’all on Christmas.

Older couple: Please, it is our pleasure. May y’all have a very Merry Christmas with baby Lilly. (Older couple departs)

Sophia: (Smiling excitedly) Tony, this is truly an answer to prayer! Let’s make this the best Christmas ever. I’ll find some ribbon or something. Let’s make some hot cocoa and sit around the tree!

Tony: We don’t have any cocoa, hot or cold. We have water. And it’s *city* water.

Sophia: Then let it be the best glass of city water we’ve *ever* had!

Tony: Sophia, you’re crazy...and that’s one of the reasons I love you! [The lights on their scene dim.]

Act 3: Encouraging Hope

Scene A:

Mary: Joseph, can you give me some water?

Joseph: (Filling two small wooden cups with water from a wood pitcher and handing one of the cups to Mary) What do we do now, Mary?

Mary: Raise baby Jesus the best way we know how and help Him become the Man of God the Lord declared through the angel, **“He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” (Luke 1:33)**

Joseph: No pressure there!

Mary: (Laughing) We’re in this together, Joseph. The innkeeper needs a Savior. You know what, we do too! We’re blessed to love and cherish and raise the Savior of the world!

Joseph: But I’m just a carpenter.

Mary (smiling): And now you get to help build something that will last forever. The Kingdom of God!

Joseph: Mary, you’re crazy...and that’s one of the reasons I love you! (They clink their cups together, and their faces light up with hope.) [The lights on their scene dim.]

Scene B: The living room transforms into a warm and inviting space, filled with laughter and joyful conversations. The Christmas tree shines brightly.

Sophia: We’re in this together, Tony. (Raising her glass) To newfound hope, to the miracles that can happen when we open our hearts.

Tony: (Smiling) And to the love that binds us together, even in the face of despair. (They clink their glasses together, and their faces light up with hope. Outside, carolers begin singing, and snow falls gently, creating a serene atmosphere.)

Narrator: Though there was no room for them at the inn, Mary and Joseph witnessed first-hand that there was room for them in God’s plan. It’s true for you too. Sophia and Tony learned that the true meaning of Christmas lies in trusting the Lord, in loving each other, compassion, and the willingness to help others. They discovered that by embracing hope and spreading kindness, they could transform their own lives and those around them. It’s true for you too.

[As the stage lights dim, Mary and Joseph and Sophia and Tony in their respective scenes exchange heartfelt hugs, their faces filled with joy and gratitude.]

[Choir sings 2 songs. Total Choir songs: 6]

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