

# **Good News, Great Joy Now Appearing at Green Hills**

By Dean Ridings and Dan Robbins

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### **Story of the Play**

The church children are taking a break from practicing for the Christmas pageant when Katie laments that the program will be limited to one presentation. But it's just the type of program her grandmother, who's "at Green Hills, where old people live," needs to hear. Pastor Steve arranges for the play to be performed at the Center, but Katie becomes upset when she learns her grandmother won't attend because she hates Christmas. But there is a heartwarming ending to this Christmas drama which shows Christ's love.

This play features traditional scenes with shepherds, wise men, and the manger, plus non-traditional scenes such as the convalescent hospital. There's comedy, drama, and a play within a play, which gives a "real life" feel to the production.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### Speaking parts (14)

Shepherd 1 .....	A child in the pageant
Shepherd 2 .....	Another
Shepherd 3 .....	Another
Angel .....	Another
Mrs. Myers .....	Director/narrator
Pastor Steve .....	Any age
Larry .....	Young boy
Katie .....	Small girl
Wise Man 1 .....	Leads caravan choir
Wise Man 2 .....	Another
Wise Man 3 .....	Another
King Herod .....	The king
Mary .....	Jesus' mother
Joseph .....	Mary's husband

### Choirs

Angel Choir .....	Several children in pageant
Caravan choir .....	Several children in pageant
Townspiece Choir .....	Several children in pageant

### Non-speaking parts

Members of Herod's court .....	Several children in pageant
Animals at the stable .....	Several children in costumes
Kathryn .....	Katie's grandmother
Elderly residents .....	Several from the home

**Performance time:** 45 to 60 minutes.

## SYNOPSIS/SETTINGS OF PLAY

- Scene 1A** Scared Shepherds  
*(Outdoor scene in the desert)*
- Scene 1B** Pastor's narration  
*(Small table far side of the stage or on audience floor)*
- Scene 2A** - Wandering Wise Men  
*(Outdoor scene and king's throne)*
- Scene 2B** - Pastor's narration  
*(At table)*
- Scene 3A** - Kingly gifts  
*(At "stable" at convalescent home)*
- Scene 3B** - Pastor's narration  
*(At table)*
- Scene 4** - Conclusion

## PROPS

- Pastor - Ninja Barbie doll, big wheel, wrapping paper, scissors, and a wrapped present
- Elderly - Wheel chairs, folding chairs
- Wise men - Gifts for Jesus

## COSTUMES

Biblical costuming for children in pageant; a donkey suit for Larry and other animal costumes for children as stable animals, if possible; clerical suit for Pastor Steve; and modern day dress for Mrs. Myers and the elderly residents of the home.

## SONGS

ANGEL CHOIR sings: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"

CARAVAN CHOIR and WISE MEN sing: "We Three Kings."

TOWNSPEOPLE CHOIR sings: "Away in the Manger."

TOWNSPEOPLE CHOIR sings: "Joy to the World."

TOWNSPEOPLE CHOIR sings: "Silent Night."

CAST and AUDIENCE sing: "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

*In addition, several bars of the songs may be used as transition music*

### Scene 1A

*(AT RISE: We see an outdoor scene, a rocky field with sheep off in the distance. It is very dark except for twinkling stars. [Production Note: Create "stars" with twinkling Christmas lights] Dramatic MUSIC is heard, then a SOUND EFFECT of loud, rolling thunder. A SPOTLIGHT suddenly reveals several confused, frightened SHEPHERDS who are rather raggedly dressed.)*

NARR: *(Dramatic)* It was a strange night. The shepherds, in the field with their flocks of sheep, had no warning. Suddenly, a light brighter than the sun shown upon them, and they were terrified!

SHEP #1: Auughh!!

SHEP #2: *(Yelling)* Help! Help!

SHEP #3: Save us!

NARR: It was the angel of the Lord. The angel spoke...

ANGEL: *(Happy)* Don't be afraid! I bring good news!

*(The ANGEL mimes talking to the SHEPHERDS while the NARRATOR speaks.)*

NARR: The shepherds were surprised and still a little scared, but they listened to the angel's words. The angel told them that a new King had been born in the world. This King had come to save His people. But this was no ordinary king, He was God's Son and His name was Jesus!

ANGEL: Go now! And find the newborn King, Jesus, in Bethlehem!

*(The SHEPHERDS stare at each other, unsure of what to do. The ANGEL choir moves into position. Fill the stage with more LIGHT.)*

NARR: *(Excited)* Suddenly the whole sky was filled with angels! They began to sing and praise God for sending His Son to the earth!

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*(MUSIC - Angel choir sings: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"  
When the song is completed, the SHEPHERDS stand and  
talk among themselves excitedly.)*

SHEP #2: Let's go to Bethlehem!

SHEP #3: Let's go see Jesus! C'mon!

*(SHEPHERDS start moving off stage but SHEPHERD #1  
remains behind.)*

SHEP #1: *(Still scared)* I'm too scared! I'm going home!

*(SHEPHERD #1 tries to exit in the opposite direction, but the  
other two SHEPHERDS grab SHEPHERD #1 and drag  
him/her off with them.)*

SHEP #1: Hey, c'mon, guys! Let me go! Can't we take a  
vote on this?...

*(MUSIC: Angel choir sings the chorus part of "Hark! The  
Herald Angels Sing!" Suddenly, PASTOR STEVE walks up  
to the stage from the main aisle of the congregation,  
clapping his hands with approval. He is smiling, obviously  
moved. Bring up full LIGHTS or house lights.)*

PASTOR: That was wonderful! Outstanding!

*(MRS. MYERS, the director and narrator, was about to  
address the CHILDREN but turns as PASTOR STEVE  
approaches.)*

MYERS: Oh, Pastor Steve! We didn't know we had an  
audience!

PASTOR: *(Still smiling)* Wonderful...just wonderful! It's just  
what people need to hear this time of year!

MYERS: *(Proud)* The children have been working very hard.  
Like I've always told you, but you never believed me...

## **End of Freeview**

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