

UNTO US A CHILD...

1-Act Christmas Play

By Nancy H. Harper

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PUBLISHED BY

**Eldridge Publishing Company
PO Box 14367
Tallahassee, FL 32317
95church.com**

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to my father, a true servant of God, who spent his life serving God and giving of himself to others. It is his life that inspired the character of Mark.

Nancy H. Harper

THE STORY

Elizabeth, recently widowed and expecting her third child, has come with her two children to spend Christmas with her parents. Her late husband, Mark, a minister, was killed in a car accident just after seeing a patient in a hospital. Elizabeth, bitter and blaming God, cannot cope with her grief and contemplates giving up their baby for adoption. She certainly wants no part of Christmas this year.

Her parents, strong Christians, reach out to help but no one can, until the Roberts' pastor brings a special young couple to visit. The last people to see Mark alive, they tell about the healing comfort he gave them in the hospital on the death of their infant.

The faith, of those around her, gives Elizabeth the courage to go on. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

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SYNOPSIS

Scene 1 A few days before Christmas.

Scene 2 Same day, a few hours later.

Scene 3 Afternoon of Christmas Eve.

SETTING

The living room of the Roberts' home.

PROPERTIES

Christmas decorations. Plate of cookies for Nellie. Bible and glasses for Grandpa. Photo album. Twelve folding chairs are added in Scene 2, and then removed for Scene 3.

SOUND EFFECTS

Phone and doorbell.

STAGE SETTING

A modest living room with a sofa CS. Two chairs are placed on SR of the sofa and the third chair is SL. Several pillows are on the sofa. There's a table with a lamp on it, and the phone is on a small stand DC. There is a door USR that goes to kitchen, and a door USL that goes to hall. A window is located on far SL. A large Christmas tree stands in the corner near the window. The room is attractively decorated for Christmas.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mary Roberts: a concerned Christian mother.

Paul Roberts: Mary's husband, strong in his faith.

Elizabeth Landon: their daughter, a young widow
,expecting her third child.

Adam Landon: Elizabeth's eight-year old son.

Sarah Landon: Elizabeth's six-year old daughter.

Grandpa Jason: Mary's father.

Pastor John Bailey: Mary and Paul's pastor.

Jeannie Price: a young woman with a story to tell.

Steve Price: Jeannie's husband.

Youth Group: 12 or 13 youths from the church.

Joanne Moore: Youth leader.

Bill Moore: Youth leader.

Nellie Connor: Neighbor who likes to gossip.

(All wear modern winter clothing, with a few changes for Elizabeth, Mary and Paul. Grandpa Jason dresses neatly and looks distinguished for his age.)

YOUTH GROUP can be a flexible group depending on size of your group. The speaking parts of the youth group members can be combined if necessary.

PLAYING TIME: Approximately 40 minutes

Scene 1

(AT RISE: MARY and her two grandchildren, ADAM and SARAH, are putting the finishing touches on the tree.)

ADAM: The tree sure is pretty, Grandma, and I like all of your decorations.

SARAH: I'm so glad we can spend Christmas at your house this year.

MARY: Well, I'm really glad you and your mother are here. It's so good to have children in the house at Christmas time. I remember how much your mother enjoyed Christmas when she was a little girl.

SARAH: Mommy said we couldn't have Christmas at our house this year.

ADAM: She's so sad since Daddy died, and she doesn't want to do any of the things we used to do.

MARY: Your daddy's death was so sudden and it's been very hard for your mother to go on with life. She misses him very much.

ADAM: We miss Daddy, too, and I wish he was here. But I know he's with Jesus, and he wants us to be happy.

MARY: How wise you are, Adam. Maybe you can help your mommy get over her grief. We just have to be patient with her.

SARAH: I don't think Mommy loves us anymore. She doesn't want to be bothered with us.

MARY: Oh, honey, your mommy loves you very much. She's just having a difficult time adjusting to your daddy's death.

SARAH: But Daddy would want us to have Christmas.

ADAM: Christmas was always Daddy's favorite time of year. He told us about how Jesus was born, about the shepherds, and the wise men. *(Tries to keep from crying.)* Grandma, I wish my daddy was here. Why did he have to die?

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MARY: *(Hugging BOTH CHILDREN close.)* We don't always know the answer to such questions. We have to believe God has a reason for taking your daddy away from you. I know how much you miss him, and how you love him. Your daddy was a wonderful man. You said that he wants you to be happy, so let's see how happy we can be. Let's make this the best Christmas you've ever had. OK?

ADAM: OK, Grandma

SARAH: I'm hungry, Grandma.

MARY: Let's go find some cookies and milk.

SARAH: Oh, goody. Your cookies are the best in the world.
(THEY exit to kitchen.)

(ELIZABETH, who is pregnant, enters from hall, walks aimlessly around the room. Final she sits on the sofa, picks up a pillow, and buries her face in it. MARY enters from the kitchen, watches her daughter a few moments, and then speaks.)

MARY: Elizabeth, dear, did you have a nice nap?

ELIZABETH: *(Surprised.)* Mother! Where did you come from?

MARY: I was in the kitchen getting the children some cookies and milk. *(Sitting on the sofa beside Elizabeth.)* I'm so glad you and the children are spending Christmas with us. It's always a pleasure to have you at home. You haven't been here for Christmas Day for a couple of years.

ELIZABETH: I know. Mark was so busy with church work that we couldn't get away. *(Starts to cry.)* Why does everything have to remind me of him? I'll never get over this ... NEVER.

MARY: *(Trying to comfort ELIZABETH.)* Of course you will, but it will take time. This has been very difficult for all of us. Mark was a wonderful man, and it's hard to understand. But you need to be strong, especially for the children. They need you so much right now.

End of Freeview

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