

Who Will Mind the Light?

Book by Terri Dill

With music and lyrics by Brandon Dill

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Dedication

To the original cast and crew. No play ever comes together without heart and hard work. It takes a passion for the telling of the story by what is done on the stage, both through acting and artistic design. Thank you, dear friends, for persevering through road blocks and all the other bumps in the road both big and small. By persevering to tell the Christmas story, you have helped to mind His light.

STORY OF THE MUSICAL

The year is 1860. It is winter in Maine, a brutal season. The folks who haven't already left Prophete Harbor, a small village on the coast, haven't seen a supply boat in months. They're on the verge of running out of food and fuel, including oil for the lighthouse lamps which could ensure the safe arrival of a critical supply ship.

Meanwhile, the few survivors from a small island that has been devastated by influenza, are seeking refuge on the mainland. During a fearsome storm at sea, they arrive at a port at night, led there by a light from a figure swinging a small lantern. Like the Christmas story of the shepherds and Wise Men being led by a bright star in the middle of darkness, the light of God has beckoned to these modern-day refugees. What they don't expect to find, however, is a ghost town.

The emptiness of this small town fills their hearts with dread. They carry their plentiful supplies to the church where they can rest the night. There must be life in this village; they just need to find it. And the next morning they do.

God sent His messenger to help all of His children, to guide and sustain them throughout their travails so they would find each other, and ultimately find their way. It is in the telling of the first Christmas by the Messenger that the town is renewed, and hope is restored; a town is reborn. "Who Will Mind the Light?" All of God's people.

Original songs include "Who Will Mind the Light?" "Show Us the Way," "Out of the Waves," "By the Grace of God," and "What Makes This Home," plus two suggested carols.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(9 m, 6 w, 5 children)

PROPHYTE HARBOR TOWNSPEOPLE

PETE: A feisty, older man in his late 80s, married to Margaret. Determined not to leave Prophyte Harbor.

MARGARET: Older woman, married to Pete. She knows when things are happening in Prophyte Harbor and she wants to be a part of it. Her grandmotherly wisdom is always welcomed.

JEFFRY: A middle-aged man, married to Grace and the Lighthouse keeper. He is trying to keep the Lighthouse lit to give hope to a dying town.

GRACE: A middle-aged woman, married to Jeffry. Her faith is never ending. She inspires the others.

PASTOR BRIAN: Husband to Leanne and father to John and Joy. His words of wisdom help a town filled with fear.

LEANNE: Pastor Brian's wife. She wants others to have hope and tries to comfort the few left in Prophyte Harbor.

JOHN: About 11-12 years old. Son to Leanne and Pastor Brian.

JOY: About 8-9 years old. Daughter to Leanne and Pastor Brian.

CAPTAIN TIMOTHY SAMUELSON: Hurt and uses a cane to get around. He is a young man in his 20s. Married to Claire and has an infant son, Jess.

CLAIRE SAMUELSON: Captain Timothy's wife, mother to baby Jess. Young, compassionate woman in her 20s.

JOE: Local fisherman. He is in his 80s. His humorous nature helps others. He is one of the mainstays of the town.

ISLAND PEOPLE

JAKE: Husband to Barbara, father to Eliot.

BARBARA: Jake's wife, mother to Eliot.

ELIOT: Jake and Barbara's son. He is 11-12 years old.

LEO: Older man who sees the love of God even when all seems lost.

KURT: Husband to Karen and father to Reagon and Kimberly.

KAREN: Wife to Kurt and mother to Reagon and Kimberly.

REAGON: Kurt and Karen's son (or daughter), 10-11 years old.

KIMBERLY: Kurt and Karen's daughter, 8-9 years old.

ANGEL

GABRIEL: Mysterious stranger with a lantern. Messenger sent to give the villagers hope and to help them see God's light through His son Jesus Christ.

SET DESIGN

The set can be as simple or elaborate. It depends on the space and the director's vision. It is mid-December 1860, and Prophyte Harbor, a small fishing village off the coast of Maine. Lampposts line the main street which has a general store, the dry goods store, and the chart house. A modest church with stained glass windows is on the corner. Near the church is a temporary stable with a Nativity and a tree. In the background upstage the working lighthouse. It is possible to use a mural in place of the lighthouse. Please note if this is not going to work for your space, make up areas with Christmas trees and lamppost that are set about then the audience will imagine the buildings are in the background.

The Samuelson's Home: Stage right, with a crib and fireplace plus two chairs.

Ferry Boat: Due to our available space we created a make-believe ferry/boat. All the goods/boxes of the Berea Island people were in the middle. People staged around that. Some at the front/back. They pretended to be on a rocking boat and moved in sync to the dock. If there is enough room a simple boat can be constructed.

SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

SONG 1: "Who Will Mind the Light?" *Jeffry*

SONG 2: "Show Us the Way" *Grace*

SONG 3: Christmas Carol ("The First Noel") *Prophyte Harbor Townspeople*

SONG 4: Christmas Carol ("God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen") *Prophyte Harbor Townspeople*

SONG 5: "Out of the Waves" *Island People*

SONG 6: "By the Grace of God" *Cast*

SONG 7: "What Makes This Home" *Cast*

Scene 1: "Who Will Mind the Light?"

(AT RISE: It is early Saturday morning in Proplyte Harbor. PETE and JEFFRY are in town.)

PETE: I told you this was goin' to be a hard winter! No boats comin' in and none goin' out. What are we supposed to do for food? Even the seagulls are headin' south. Nothin' here for nobody!

JEFFRY: Pete, I know it looks bleak now, but in a few months, spring will be here and hopefully those that have left will come back. This is their home.

PETE: Been my home for eighty years; can't leave now. Margaret feels the same. Heard just yesterday they are saying we are in for a lot more winter. *(Pause.)* What will we do if the harbor gets iced in?

JEFFRY: I can't see us standing here complaining is going to help our situation. We are just going to have to pull together and help each other out. I keep the lighthouse lit up every night in hopes it will draw someone to our port. *(Sadly.)* Before she left town, Suzanne down by the general store kept telling me it is useless to burn that light all night long, but who else will mind the light if I don't?

PETE: Jeffry, that is all you have ever known. Why, you have been a lighthouse keeper here since you were a boy. You give hope to all when it is lit up. *(Pause.)* But it doesn't help us when we see the businesses locking their doors. I heard it said the general store is down to the last of just about everything. Suzanne rationed most of her supplies for all of us to share. Margaret is worried because the Captain and his wife have that small baby. What are they going to do?

JEFFRY: I remember my parents talking about times like this in Proplyte Harbor. It was before I was ever born. Many left, yet many stayed. Somehow, they made it through. *(Turns to look at the lighthouse.)* This old lighthouse has saved many over the years.

SONG 1: "Who Will Mind the Light?"

JEFFRY:

ABOVE THE ROCKS,
ABOVE THE CRASHING WAVES AT NIGHT,
A TOWER STANDS,
A BEACON DRAWING SHIPS WITH LIGHT.
AT NIGHT I WALK AND WATCH THE WATER CATCH THE
LIGHT.
BUT WHEN THESE HANDS HAVE CEASED THEIR TENDING
TO THE LIGHT, I WONDER:

WHO WILL MIND THE LIGHT?
WILL ANOTHER TAKE MY PLACE WHEN I'M GONE?
WHO CAN FIND THE LIGHT?
IF NO ONE WILL FILL THE LAMP WHEN I'M GONE?
SHIPS WILL KEEP ON SAILING, AND SAILORS STILL SEEK
HOME.
SHOULD THIS LIGHT START FAILING, WILL THEY BE LEFT
ALONE?

WHO WILL MIND THE LIGHT?
WILL ANOTHER TAKE MY PLACE WHEN I'M GONE?
WHO CAN FIND THE LIGHT?
IF NO ONE WILL FILL THE LAMP WHEN I'M GONE?
WHO WILL MIND THE LIGHT?

(At the end of the song PETE crosses over and places his hand on JEFFRY'S shoulder, showing his support. JOHN, a young boy, enters carrying firewood.)

PETE: Hey there, boy, what brings you out so early on a Saturday morning? I thought all you youngins sleep in until someone rolls you out of bed!

(Both MEN laugh, and JOHN knows it is all in good jesting.)

JOHN: Mornin', Mr. Pete. *(Nods at JEFFRY.)* Mr. Jeffry. My pa has me taking wood to the Captain today because he has been laid up a few days. His wife can't do much 'cause baby Jess is too little yet to be out on these cold days.

End of Freeview

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