

# THE SHEPHERD'S CHILDREN

ADAPTED FROM THE SHEPHERD'S SON by Robert Van de Weyer

STARLAND SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS 1993

**SCENE 1:** Shepherds are out in a field with their sheep. A bright light appears and angels enter and sing.

"From Heav'n above to Earth I come" CTTM p. 49

Shepherds are very surprised; shield their eyes and gaze in awe.

**Angel #1:** (from Luke 2:10-12) Do not be afraid. We bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**Angel #2:** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

**Angel #3:** He is Christ the Lord.

**Angel #4:** This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

**Angels #5,6,7,8: (all together)** Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on earth, and good will to men.

**Shepherd 1:** What has happened?

**Shepherd 2:** Did you not hear? A Savior, Christ the Lord has been born this day in a manger.

**Shepherd 3:** Are you sure this is what we heard, or are we dreaming?

**Shepherd 4:** We must believe and obey the messengers of God.

**Shepherd 5:** Let us quickly go to the stable.

**Shepherd 6:** Perhaps we will find him, whom we've been waiting for.

SHEPHERDS RISE TO LEAVE

**Shepherd 2:** A Savior, to save the whole world. It is hard to believe.

SHEPHERDS EXIT

CHOIR SINGS: "Up now ye Shepherds" CTTM p. 86

**SCENE 2:** Hear shepherds singing as they move around the room on their way to the manger scene.

SING: "Shepherds come a-running" CTTM p.62

MARY AND JOSEPH ARE AT MANGER AND SHEPHERDS BRING GIFTS.

SING: "Jesus our Brother strong and good" CTTM p. 108

LIGHTS DIM

**SCENE 3:** [ Inside benjamin's house, a poor sheperds' hut ]

Dad (rushing in excitedly); Wake up ! Wake up ! A most amazing thing happened last night ! We were looking after our sheep, when suddenly a bright light shone across the sky , and a voice spoke to us !

Benjamin: (Now wide awake ) What did it say?

Mother: Tell us ! What happened then?

Father: The voice told us to go to Bethlehem to see a little baby that had just been born — a baby that would save the world ! We went to Bethlehem and found the Baby Jesus, in a stable in the manger. With him were his parents, Mary and Joseph. I am certain that it is the Savior we've been waiting for ! I could feel it in my heart !

Benjamin: ( Very enthused ) Mother ! I would like to take a present to the Baby Jesus !

Sarah : ( Rushing to stand next to Benj. ) I want to go, too !

Mother : That is a good idea, children; but we have no money to buy a gift . You will have to go out and find something that you can use for a present.

Benjamin: Mother, what can we find in these poor hills ?

Sarah: Let's go look, we'll find something !

Mother: I am sure you will find something, if you only try your best and look hard.

Benjamin; Alright, let's go!

Mother: Wait, you need some breakfast first .

Benjamin: May we go right after breakfast then?

( Mother looks at father for answer )

Father: Yes, children, that would be fine

Family gathers at table

SING: "What shall I bring....." CTTM p. 237  
They bow heads for blessing, lights dims, they exit quietly.

SCENE 4 : Scene is of pasture with scattered bushes and shrubs, that have bits of wool caught on them  
( Children enter and wander around , looking for something to use as a gift . )

Sarah: What will we find for Jesus, Benjamin?

Benjamin: I'm not sure, Sarah, let's keep looking.

Sarah: ( Suprised ) Look over there on the bushes, something white. ( She runs over and grabs a piece ) Oh, it's only small pieces of wool which was pulled from the sheep when they brushed against the thorns.

Benjamin: ( Takes the wool from his sister and peers at it thoughtfully for a few moments)

I have an idea ! If we had more wool, we could fill a pillow for Baby Jesus !

Mother would help us with a bag.

Sarah: That's a good idea. But where could we find more wool. (looks around) Oh look! There's more on those bushes over there, and there.

Benjamin: Yes. Let's start collecting it. We need something to put it in. Can we fill your apron?

Sarah: Yes. Do you think our present will make baby Jesus happy, Benjamin?

Benjamin: I am quite sure it will. (Children collect for a while) There, now it is full. That should be enough.  
(Children walk to their home.)

Benjamin: Look mother! We found something to bring to baby Jesus. We want to use this to make a soft pillow for him. Will you help us?

Mother: That is wonderful! What do we need to do?

Sarah: We have to sew a bag for the wool and stuff it in and that will be our pillow.

Mother: Well. Let's get to work, so you can take your present early in the morning.

(Mother finds a bag with open top and they stuff it and mother stitches it shut.

Mother: There, it's done. It is beautiful. Now let's get ready for bed.

Benjamin: I can't wait for the morning.

CHOIR sing "Still, Still....." SOL p.325

#### SCENE 5

Next morning children and their mother are getting ready for journey. They talk as they prepare.

Mother: Good morning, children. It's time to start on your journey to Bethlehem. Here's some food to eat on the way. Please hurry so you make it back before nightfall.

(Children say good-by and leave. Walk a while in silence)

Sarah: Benjamin, How will we find the baby Jesus?

Benjamin: I am sure many people have heard about him. We will ask them. They will help us.

(The children approach the girl sitting on a log holding the bird.)

Benjamin: What is wrong with that bird?

Girl: The poor thing has lost its mother. It is dying of cold.

Sarah: Can we not help the bird? We cannot let it die.

(Benjamin looks at his pillow and then at the bird.)

Benjamin: We could wrap it in some of the wool, but then the pillow will not be so big and firm for the baby Jesus.

Sarah: I'm sure Jesus wouldn't mind if we help a poor little bird with some of his wool.

Benjamin: You're right Sarah. We must help the bird.

(Benjamin pulls some wool from the pillow and wraps the bird,)

Girl: Thank you very much. He sounds stronger already. I think he will live.

(Children continue on their journey)

SCENE 6

Old man with backpack enters. Children pass him in center stage and look at his backpack. Man is groaning.

Benjamin: Look at the poor man. His pack is hurting his back and it looks so heavy.

Sarah: I can see. We must help him.

(Benjamin runs back to the man and starts speaking)

Benjamin: Friend, <sup>That Load</sup> Your pack must be hurting your back. Is it not too heavy?

Man: Yes it is quite heavy and it rubs on my back here. But I am poor and have no donkey to carry it for me.

Benjamin: I can give you some wool and you can put it where it rubs. That should help some.

Sarah: But, Benjamin. What about the pillow for Jesus?

Benjamin: I think the little Jesus would want us to help someone who is hurting.

(Benjamin places wool under pack)

Man: Thank you little friend. May God bless you for your kindness. Good-by now. I must be on my way now. (walks more briskly and is cheerful)

Sarah: Benjamin, it is getting late already; will we make it back before night fall?

Benjamin: We will have to see, I think we'll have to find a place to stay in Bethlehem.

Sarah: Lets sit and rest a moment, I'm so tired!

Benjamin: O.k. but only a short while.

( Enter Joseph leading pony on which Mary is sitting.) Benjamin and Sarah hear them speaking to each other. )

Joseph: You must be very uncomfortable sitting on that hard saddle . If only I had a cushion for you to sit on.

Mary: (Wearily ) Don't worry. God will look after us.

Benjamin: ( Speaking to Sarah, on the verge of tears ) If we give her our pillow, she will be comfortable; but then we will have nothing to give to Baby Jesus— and our journey will be wasted..... But my heart tells me to help her.

Sarah: Yes — she looks even more tired than we are !

Benjamin: ( Wiping tears from his eyes, walks up and offers pillow. ) Here is a cushion for you.

Joseph : That is most generous.

Mary: ( Smiles at children and says— ) Please, Joseph, could you take a piece of wool from the pillow to put on my shoulder— for my little Jesus to rest his head on ?

( Joseph does so and then carefully positions pillow behind Mary's back, as she leans forward in the rough saddle-chair. )

(Benjamin and Sarah look on with mouths open, and eyes wide in amazement. )

Benjamin: What? Baby Jesus !! ( Stands staring, speechless )

Sarah: Is it really Baby Jesus , who was born last night ??

Joseph: Yes, my child, it really is the Savior.

( Mary, meanwhile holds the baby down low so the children can see him.

Joseph: We shall always be grateful to you; thank you children !

Mary: And God bless you always,

(couple leave and children watch them until they're gone).

Benjamin:(shouting) We saw Him! We saw Jesus! He has our present now. It is so wonderful! Praise God!

Sarah: Yes Benjamin, now we can tell mother and father all about it. (pause)

Benjamin, I wonder where Jesus was born.

Benjamin: Father said he saw him in a stable, lying in a manger. Maybe we can still find it and sleep there tonight. (lights dim)

CHOIR SING "Bethlehem lay sleeping" CTM p. 117

## SCENE 7

Children arrive at stable.

Benjamin: Look, there is the stable now.

Sarah: And here is the manger. This must be where Jesus lay.

(They run up and Benjamin feels the straw.

Benjamin: Yes it is. The straw is still warm. Sarah, you can sleep in the manger and I will sleep on the straw on the floor. (Children lie down to sleep & lights dim)

CHOIR SING "~~How far is it to Bethlehem~~" SOL p. 316

Lights come back on to shine on cast assembled around the manger scene.

Sing appropriate Christmas songs.