

What If? - Christmas Cantata 2014

written by: Ellen Halliday & Jean Halliday

Evesham Community Church for the Ecumenical service in Luseland, Sk
(connected with Superb Mennonite Church)

Feel free to find songs to fit.

Begin with the characters on stage set up as a nativity as the piano plays the prelude.

Choir enters singing: We light a thousand candles bright

Choir & Congregation: Silent Night

Narrator: Christmas is a time for that warm and cozy feeling, the babe in the manger, the candle light, the music of Christmas. But just a minute, What if..... We get so wrapped up in the tinsel and trappings that we forget what Christmas is really about. What if.....

What if the star that shone so bright
O'er Bethlehem on that holy night
Had never shone on that manger bed
Where King Jesus laid His tiny head.

(The star is unplugged.)

Then the wisemen seeking for the king,
Would not have beheld this wondrous thing.
God's own Son, come from heaven above.
To show the earth His Father's great love

(The wisemen leave)

And what if the angel choir that sang
From heaven above, till the whole earth rang
Had never told of the Savior's birth
Nor sung their song of peace on earth.

(Angels leave)

Then the shepherds watching their flocks by night
Wouldn't have seen this glorious sight,
Nor hurried to Bethlehem to see
Christ come to earth for you and for me.

(Shepherds leave)

And what if the innkeeper's heart had been cold,
And Mary and Joseph had been gruffly told,
There's no room in the inn, neither large or small.

No room in my stable. There's no room at all.

Then Mary and Joseph would never have found
A stable warm with the animals around.
There in a manger, cradled in the hay
Jesus the Christ Child, their baby they lay.

(Mary and Joseph leave stable, but not the front area)

And what if Caesar hadn't wanted to count
Each one in his kingdom, so he knew the amount
Of people who lived in the Roman Empire,
Each one to his own town, said the town crier.

Then Mary and Joseph would not have seen
The crowd of Bethlehem, for they would have been
At home in Nazareth in Galilee
With their friends and neighbors and family.

(Joseph walks to the centre)

And what if the angel had never told
Joseph in a dream, Be not afraid, be bold.
Go and take Mary home to be your wife
And call her son Jesus, he'll change your life.

The Joseph would never have called Mary's Son
Jesus, God with us. Yes, He's the one.
Nor taken Mary to Bethlehem town
Just as Isaiah had written it down.

(Joseph leaves)

And what if Gabriel had not come to say,
Mary, God's favour is with you today.
You Son will be special, God's holy child.
He'll be great and mighty and undefiled.

Then Mary would never have been the one
To be the mother of God's only Son.
We wouldn't have Christmas, or know of God's love,
His goodness, His mercy, His gift from above.

But it didn't happen that way.....

Mary and Joseph and all of the rest
Did the Lord's will, they gave Him their best.
God had a plan and each one did their part
They served Him and loved Him with all of their heart.

So we have Christmas and know of God's love,
His goodness, His mercy, His gift from above.
Listen again as we tell the old story
Of how Jesus came down from Heaven's glory.

God sent Gabriel to Mary to say,
Mary, God's favour is with you today.
Your son will be special, God's holy child.
He'll be great and mighty and undefiled.

Song: Mary Did You Know (*Mary enters and remains standing*)

Joseph had a dream in which he was told,
Be not afraid, the angel said. Be bold.
God says to take Mary home as your wife
And name her son Jesus. He'll change your life.

Song: Joseph's Song (*Joseph enters and remains standing*)

Now at that time Caesar asked for a count
Of all in the land so he knew the amount
Of people who lived in the Roman Empire.
Each one to his own town, said the town crier.

Song: Children Go Where I send Thee

Mary and Joseph the law did obey
And set off to Bethlehem miles away
Instead of being home in Nazareth in Galilee
With their friends and neighbours and family.

Choir & Congregation: Oh Little Town of Bethlehem (*Mary & Joseph sit down*)

Now Bethlehem was crowded but they found
A stable warm with the animals around.
There in a manger, cradled in the hay
Jesus the Christ Child, their baby they lay.

Choir: Little Drummer Boy Medley (*Shepherds stand off to the side*)

Out on the hills watching their flocks that night,
Shepherds were awed by a glorious sight.
God's angel told them of the Saviour's birth
And of peace and good will to all on earth.

Choir: Do you Hear What I hear (*Angels enter*)

Then the whole choir of angels sang
and glorified God till the whole earth rang.
The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see
Christ come to earth for you and for me.

Choir: Angel's Lullaby (*Shepherds come to stable*)

Wisemen enter

O'er Bethlehem town a star shone so bright
That it filled the sky with its heavenly light.
It shone its light on the manger bed
Where King Jesus laid His tiny head.

Choir & Congregation: Away in a Manger (*The star is lit*)

Wisemen beheld this wondrous star.
Following its light they came from afar,
To find the king, God's own son from above
To worship and adore Him, God's gift of love.

Choir: One Small Child

What if like Mary and all of the rest
We did God's will and gave Him our best?
What if today each of us did our part,
We served Him and loved Him with all of our heart.

In faith let us come to the stable small
And worship the Child born to save us all.
Lift up your voice! Join the angels and sing
Tell the whole world of the birth of our King!

Choir: Jesus is Born

Choir & Congregation: Joy to the World