

## Community-Developed

*Author:* Barb Draper  
*Church:* Floradale Mennonite Church  
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## Searching for Jesus A Christmas Drama

**Performance Time:** 15-20 minutes

### Characters:

Narrator One  
Narrator Two  
Annie Bauman  
Neighbour with baby  
Charlie, a neighbour  
Pastor  
Angel

### Non-Speaking Parts:

Mary  
Joseph  
Shepherds (optional)

### Dance Troupe:

2 or 3 extra angels

**Soloist** (4 songs)

*This story is inspired by the Leo Tolstoy story about Martin the Cobbler. The audience is invited to think about the implications of Jesus' birth and that God is present "where love and charity prevail."*

## **Scene 1** [

*Setting: Small table and chair stage right]*

Narrator: Once upon a time, not so very long ago, in the village of *[your setting]*, lived a woman named Annie Bauman. She was a widow who lived by herself in the house where she had raised her family.

*[Mrs. Bauman enters with a sewing machine, puts it on the table, sits and begins sewing on a comforter top or baby quilt.]*

Narrator: She enjoyed sewing, and on most days she spent time at her sewing machine, sewing quilt tops to raise money for good causes, or sewing comforter tops so that people displaced from their homes could have blankets to keep warm.

But Mrs. Bauman was also sad. Her grandchildren all lived far away and her husband had died not so long ago. Christmas was coming but she couldn't get into the spirit of the season. She just didn't have the energy to send out her usual Christmas cards or to do any Christmas baking.

Annie: *(sighs)* God just seems so very far away. *(takes a deep breath)* I try to pray, but sometimes I wonder if God is there at all. I wish...I wish that I could see Jesus with my own eyes. *(bows her head)* O God, touch me, heal me, let me feel your presence.

*(After a moment she goes back to her sewing. During the following song she exits right.)*

**Song** (soloist or congregation): STS 65, "Open my Eyes"

## **Scene 2**

Narrator: The next morning, when Annie walked to the *[local store name]* to buy more thread, she met a woman from the village who was out walking her newborn baby.

*[Annie enters right, neighbour with baby stroller/buggy enters left and they meet stage left.]*

Annie: Ohhh, may I see the baby!? (*leans over the stroller, speaking to the baby.*) Oh, aren't you a cute little one! (*reaches in*) Look at his cute little fingers! And his skin is so soft. Ohh, what a big yawn for a little boy! (*looks up at a the neighbour*) Is he a good baby?

Neighbour: (*a bit guardedly*) He's not too bad. He sleeps a lot, thank goodness.

Annie: (*Leaning over the baby again*) Babies are so special. They remind us that God can bring new life and that there is hope for the future.

Neighbour: Babies are a lot of work too.

Annie: That's true. But babies add a real blessing to a family. If a person goes too long without seeing a new baby, they may lose touch with God. Thank you for taking time to let me see your baby.

Neighbour: That's okay.

Annie: Are you getting along okay? Are you able to get enough rest and everything?

Neighbour: Most of the time it's good.

Annie: Do you have anything you need help with? Does your mother live close by?

Neighbour: No, my mother lives pretty far away. I sure could use a babysitter now and then.

Annie: (*carefully*) Maybe I could help with that.

Neighbour: Could you?

Annie: I think I'd like to. Not all day, every day, mind you. But now and then for an hour or two. Maybe I could be his foster grandmother.

Neighbour: That would be great. Umm, could you watch him tomorrow afternoon for a bit while I run some errands?

Annie: Sure, I could do that. Now just hold on a second, I want to get something for you. (*Annie dashes off right and returns with a pieced crib blanket.*) This isn't anything special, but I have this extra blanket if you could use it.

Neighbour: Oh, thank you so much. It's beautiful. (*She tucks the blanket in around the baby.*) Whenever I see this blanket I'll remember your thoughtfulness.

Annie: Good-bye. You take good care of that little baby.

[*Neighbour exits right, Annie exits left*]

Narrator: Annie felt a little less sad. She looked forward to spending some time with the baby the next day and she started to plan for another baby blanket so she would always have one ready to give to a new mother.

**Song** (soloist or congregation): STJ 39, "Where true love"

### Scene 3

*[Annie enters and sets up her sewing machine again.]*

Narrator: A few days later, Annie was again sitting at her sewing machine when she heard a knock on the door.

Annie: *(moves stage right to an imaginary door) (Surprised)* Oh my goodness, Charlie, whatever happened to you? You better come in.

*[Charlie enters, struggling with crutches.]*

Narrator: Annie was very surprised to find her neighbour, Old Charlie had hurt himself. *(During this speech, Annie gets a chair for Charlie and helps him sit down.)* Old Charlie was poor and every now and then needed help from his neighbours.

Annie: Now tell me what happened.

Charlie: My foot hurts.

Annie: It's just your foot?

Charlie: *(lifting his pant-leg and rubbing his lower leg)* It feels pretty hot.

Annie: It looks really swollen. What happened to you?

Charlie: I fell. I was going down the back steps you know, in the back woodshed and I lost my balance. I came down on the bottom step with this foot and I guess I twisted it. I landed pretty hard on my backside. *(groans a bit)*.

Annie: Can you put any weight on it?

Charlie: Yeah, but it hurts a lot.

Annie: Did you put any ice on it?

Charlie: *(shakes his head)* I couldn't get to the kitchen.

Annie: How did you get the crutches?

Charlie: They were still in the woodshed from the last time I hurt my foot.

Annie: Hmmm. What were you planning to do next?

Charlie: I don't know. What do you think I should do?

Annie: Maybe you'd better have it x-rayed to make sure it isn't broken. Why don't I take you down to the hospital and we'll get a doctor to have a look at it.

Charlie: Thank you.

Narrator: So Annie dropped all her plans for the afternoon, knowing that they might sit in the emergency room for many hours. But Charlie needed help; he couldn't manage on his own, so Annie got out her car and took him to get help for his injury.

*(Annie and Charlie hobble off stage right.)*

**Song** (soloist or congregation): HWB 307, vv. 2-3, "Will you let me be your servant"

#### **Scene 4**

Narrator: Soon it was the week before Christmas and Annie Bauman was longing to feel in the right mood for Christmas. She still felt as though God was far away and she longed to feel the presence of Christ in her own life. One morning she went to pick up her mail and there she met the pastor.

*[Annie enters right, Pastor enters left]*

Pastor: Good morning Annie. How are you today?

Annie: I'm okay, I guess. How are you?

Pastor: Well, it's close to Christmas and that means we're all busy. Lots to do, you know.

Annie: That must be nice.

Pastor: It seems as though you're struggling this Christmas season. Is it a pretty hard time for you?

Annie: *(reluctantly)* Yeah, I guess so.

Pastor: We haven't seen you at church much lately.

Annie: *(feeling burdened)* I know. It's just that, well, sometimes God seems so far away.

Pastor: *(nodding)* We all go through dark valleys sometimes. Is there anything special you're praying about?

Annie: I'm having a hard time praying at all. I wish, I wish I could see Jesus with my own eyes. I wish that I could feel his presence.

Pastor: You know, from what I've heard, you've been pretty close to Jesus lately.

Annie: What do you mean?

Pastor: I heard that you gave a blanket to a new mother, and offered to look after her baby sometimes. (*Annie shrugs*) And I heard that you spent half a day at the hospital in emergency, helping Old Charlie when he hurt his foot.

Annie: What does that have to do with Jesus?

Pastor: Haven't you heard the saying that we need to be Jesus' hands and feet. When we reach out to people around us, that's actually God reaching out to them.

Annie: Are you sure that's true?

Pastor: Oh yes. Jesus said that if we give something to eat to those who are hungry, or give clothes to those who need them or look after those who are sick then we are doing it for Jesus. The Bible quotes Jesus as saying, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Annie: You mean when Old Charlie came to the door, that was Jesus?

Pastor: Didn't you feel the hand of God with you when you helped him?

Annie: I never thought about that at all.

Pastor: You know, Jesus and his Spirit are around us all the time. And when we reach out to someone else who needs help or when we receive help from someone else, then Christ's love is something that we can feel and in a way, it's something we can see. But it's important to have eyes of faith so that we can see Jesus in the people around us.

Annie: Thank you, Pastor.

Pastor: When we meet together at church, that's a good time to use our eyes of faith to see how God is working. (*Annie nods slightly*) Why don't you come out for our Christmas eve service, maybe you will feel God's presence there.

Annie: Thanks. Maybe I'll see you there.

Pastor: I'll look for you.

*[Annie and pastor exit opposite sides]*

## Scene 5

Narrator 1: So Annie began to think about what the Pastor had said. She began to look for Jesus with eyes of faith. And on Christmas Eve she went to church where she was able to see the Christmas story with new eyes. *[Annie sits in the front pew.]*

She heard the words:

Narrator 2: “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

*[Mary and Joseph enter from rear of auditorium and make their way toward the platform]*

Narrator 2: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him, and was expecting a child.”

Narrator 1: As Annie sat there on Christmas Eve, she wondered about how Mary felt. Mary must have been scared to travel so far from home when her baby was almost due. She must have said over and over to herself the words of the angel who came to her and said, “Do not be afraid. You have found favour with God.”

*[Mary and Joseph go across the stage and exit backstage right]*

Narrator 2: While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, “the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Narrator 1: Annie nodded to herself. God came to the world as a baby. He was the Son of God and he came from heaven, but he was born in a stable with a manger for his cradle. This baby Jesus was Immanuel, “God with us.”

*[Shepherds enter auditorium and cross in front of the stage at floor level. Stand to the side until angels are finished.]*

Narrator 2: “In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord (*enter angel*) stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said,

Angel: Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Narrator 2: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**Song** (“Hosanna – by Carl Tuttle, on YouTube)

*[4 angels – worship in movement/dance through song]*

*[Angels exit backstage left. Mary and Joseph enter backstage right]*

Narrator 2: When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

*[Tableau with Mary on a stool, Joseph standing behind the manger. Shepherds kneel to the sides]*

Narrator 1: So Annie Bauman from *[your setting]* enjoyed the Christmas Eve service. She wished that she could hear the voice of an angel directly, but she remembered that she needed to use her eyes and ears of faith. As she bent her head in worship, she sensed the hand of God on her shoulder.

And Annie remembered how Mary responded when the angel told her that she would be the mother of God:

Narrator 2: Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Narrator 1: And when Annie joined the congregation in singing, suddenly she knew that she had been in the presence of God.

**Song** (congregation): HWB 318, “Joy to the World”

*[After verse 1, Mary and Joseph and shepherds exit]*