

Light Has Come

MARY: female age 14-24

JOSEPH: male age 15-24

PRIEST: male age 15+

ABIGAIL/ANGEL: female 13-24, gossipy girl, friend of Mary

TAMAR/ANGEL: female 13-24, not very bright, friend of Mary

GABRIEL: age 14+

ANNA: female age 50+

SIMEON: male age 50+

BEN: male age 30+, older wise shepherd

ASHER: male aged 9-15, young shepherd boy

YOKI: male age 14-30, bitter shepherd who needs God

ROMAN SOLDIER/WISE MAN: male, aged 14+,

MARY'S MOTHER: (no lines) female aged 35+

THREE WISE MEN: (no lines) males age 14+

ANGELS/TOWNIES: males and females age 12+

PROPS: wine goblet, tambourine, flowers, shofar, bench and sheepskin, baby doll and cloths, travel bags, walking stick, 3 wise men gifts, canopy, veil, campfire, 2 turtle doves, cage, shepherd crooks, bandage, sewing, Gabriel light wings, angel candles, wound make-up, manger – stone, lamb, scrolls, fake trees,

SETTINGS by SCENE: 1,2,3,6,12 - **STREET** – with window and door to Mary's house

4,9 - **FIELD**

5, 11- **TEMPLE**

8,10 – **STABLE**

Scenes:

1. Betrothal - street
2. Gabriel's Message - street
3. Shunned - street
4. Shepherds – Field
5. Waiting For Messiah- Temple
6. Hava Nagila – The Wedding - street
7. Traveling Through Jerusalem – Temple
8. Light Has Come – Birth of Jesus - stable
9. Angels We Have Heard on High - field
10. Migdal Eder – The Shepherds Go - stable
11. The Presentation at the Temple- temple
12. Visitors – street/door

13. Finale Song

SONG LIST:

Prelude – When Love Was Born –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKSU9Dbxvrw>

Prelude - Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel with lyrics-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0Wy2u9TENo>

Prelude with video – Somewhere In Your Silent Night – 4:07

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT-5cP4BeoI>

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1. “Mazal Tov” – Sc 1

https://www.amazon.com/Mazel-Tov-Mazal/dp/B00JK44OSQ/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=mazal+tov+traditional&qid=1557608143&s=dmusic&sr=1-1-catcorr

2. “Be Born In Me” – Mary and Gabriel – Sc 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsXOP7aQeqQ> -

3. “Hava Nagila” – Sc 6

<https://music.amazon.com/albums/B001AV3GF4?do=play> – Sc 6

4. “Hava Nagila” – Sc 6

https://www.amazon.com/Hava-Nagila/dp/B00JN7KWIG/ref=sr_1_1?crd=IG6VXP9AQO8D&keywords=hava+nagila+song&qid=1557518744&s=gateway&srefix=hava+na%2Caps%2C142&sr=8-1

5. “Light Has Come” Barlow Girl - Part 1 – Sc 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5UXgs6nvGM>

6. “Angels We Have Heard” Angels arrive to shepherds – Sc 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5mdybeyLVc>

7. “O Come O Come Emmanuel” -Piano Guys – Shepherds to Manger – Sc 9-10 [https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO7ySn-Swwc)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO7ySn-Swwc

8. “Light Has Come” - Barlow Girl – Part 2 – Anna and Simeon meet Jesus – Wise Men – Sc 11-12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SarPJv6rUiQ&list=RDGMEMz3e4vKpJzevZUeQNb5klIlg&start_radio=1

9. "He Shall Reign" Chris Tomlin split track – Sc. 13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5UXgs6nvGM>

SCENE 1 – BETROTHAL

Curtain opens as Hava Nagila music – first 24 seconds, plays. Lights up. Mary and Joseph are at the doorway looking serious, priest's back to audience.

PRIEST: You understand, this is a most serious and binding contract. You two will be married to each other, in every way, except that which leads to children.

JOSEPH and MARY: Yes.

Priest steps aside so Joseph and Mary are fully seen.

JOSEPH: Mary, I Joseph, promise myself to you and to no other, all the days of my life. I will love you and care for you. Will you drink this cup that I offer, and be my bride?

MARY: *(Mary nods and drinks the cup)* Joseph, I promise myself to you and no other all the days of my life. *(she drinks)*

Guest takes the cup. As priest speaks, Joseph elbows Mary, they share a smile.

PRIEST: Lord, Let the loving couple be very happy, just as You made Your creation happy in the garden of Eden, so long ago. Blessed are You, Lord, who makes the bridegroom and the bride happy.

Adonai, our God, let there soon be heard in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem the sound of joy and the sound of gladness, the voice of the loving couple. Blessed are You Who causes the couple to rejoice, one with the other.

JOSEPH: L'Chaim!!!

MARY: L'Chaim!!

ALL: To life!!

All laugh and celebrate.

SONG: "MAZEL TOV"

https://www.amazon.com/Mazel-Tov-Mazal/dp/B00JK44OSQ/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=mazal+tov+traditional&qid=1557608143&s=dmusic&sr=1-1-catcorr

Friends congratulate Joseph.

ABIGAIL: Oh Mary, congratulations! Only, say that we will always be friends, even though you're a betrothed woman now and will be married in a year..or less!

TAMAR: Yes, say you won't forget your childhood friends.

MARY: I could never forget my beloved Abigail and Tamar. We shall always be friends! I am sure you two will be betrothed before long.

TAMAR: Oh really? To who? What have you heard?

MARY: Oh no..it's just..

TAMAR: (*disappointed*) Oh..I don't know if there will ever be anyone for me.

MARY: Oh of course there will be.

ABIGAIL: I wish I could find someone as handsome and young as your Joseph. My father wants to marry me off to an old widower. He's as old as my father. And just as fat. But never mind me, we must focus on preparing for *your* wedding. There's so much to do. Oh, I'll need a new dress!

TAMAR: Oh me too. Me too!! (*to Abigail*) And we should be matching!

ABIGAIL: Let's go plan it out. My mother may have some fabric we can use!

Girls exit excitedly and others as well. Mary and Joseph eye each other awkwardly. Joseph approaches.

JOSEPH: (*slightly awkward*) Well, that's settled for now. I shall start working on a house to bring you home to. And you will.. prepare lamps and clothing and whatever else..women do.

MARY: (*nodding shyly*) Yes, I suppose so.

JOSEPH: I will see you around town I'm sure. And then the day my Father says is the day, I will come for you, blowing the shofar! I want everyone to know the day I come for my bride! I'll be sure to blow it as loud as I can! I will make the loudest and noisiest procession Nazareth has *ever* heard!

MARY: Oh no, don't do that!

JOSEPH: (*with humor*) You can't stop me! (*more seriously*) Until then, your veil will let all know that you belong to me, and no other. (*He fingers the ends of her veil. Smiling he backs away, waves and exits*)

Instrumental music. Lights out.

SCENE 2: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Lights up. Instrumental music fades out. Mary is sitting on a bench, playing with her veil, humming to herself.

MARY: Oh it's been forever since I've seen Joseph. Well, I have seen him across the market place a few times. I can't believe I will leave my home in just *months*, leave my parents and go to live with him, as his wife! (*looking at her sewing*) Ugh, I can't even sew a straight stitch! And I burn the meals half the time I do the cooking. How am I going to handle being a wife? And perhaps someday a mother? I can't even imagine.

GABRIEL: Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.

MARY looks terrified, to knees. *"Be Born In Me" instrumental starts.*

GABRIEL: Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

MARY: How will this be, since I am a virgin?

GABRIEL: The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.

MARY: I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.

GABRIEL leaves. Mary looks bewildered.

MARY: Surely I did not dream that. Is this really happening? *(thinks to herself, gets an idea, jumps up, as she runs into her door)* Mother? Oh mother? May I go to visit my cousin Elizabeth?

Spotlight off. Fade music out

SCENE 3: SHUNNED

Lights up. Instrumental music fades out.

Girls are walking along and approach Mary's house. Mary is sitting on the bench outside.

ABIGAIL: Shalom Mary!

TAMAR: *(hugging Mary dramatically)* You're back home!

Girls hug Mary.

ABIGAIL: Is that your wedding dress?

MARY: It is! It's almost finished.

TAMAR: Oh, let us see. Let us see!!

MARY: Alright. But don't laugh. I'm not very good at sewing. I've taken most of the stitching out three times and resewn it.

TAMAR: Just let us see! *(grabs the dress and holds it up to herself)*

MARY stands.

TAMAR: Oh, it's...nice. *(whispers to Abigail)* Not as nice as mine.

MARY looks at the girls, and then at the dress, disappointed.

ABIGAIL: It's lovely Mary, it's just so plain. If you added beads or colored thread..

TAMAR: Like purple. Wouldn't purple be beautiful?

MARY: Those are costly. We don't have that kind of money.

(Awkward pause, Mary folds up dress and sets dress on the bench)

ABIGAIL: It will be fine. (*changing subject*) How was your visit to your cousin Elizabeth?

TAMAR: Yes. How was it? It seems you were gone for weeks.

MARY: I **was** gone for weeks. (*stands*) And it was amazing! She had a baby! Can you imagine? In her very old age, she had a baby! It was just as the an..

ABIGAIL: OH MY! You must have eaten well during your visit, you're all fat! (*reaching out to Mary's belly, gasps*) Wait - that's not fat!

TAMAR: What is it? What are you hiding under there? Is it for me? (*feels Mary's belly too*) Mary?

MARY: It's..it's fine (*smoothing down her dress, looking concerned, but trying to brush it off*).

ABIGAIL: YOU'RE the one having a baby.

TAMAR: For real? You aren't really Mary, are you?

MARY: (*smiling, takes a deep breath*) Yes, I am having a baby.

TAMAR: (*bending down in excitement and grabbing her belly*) Oh, hello little baby. Hello in there. Can you hear me? He's not saying anything..

ABIGAIL: Mary, that's scandalous, and sinful. Does Joseph know about this baby?

Tamar looks shocked and stands back with Abigail.

MARY: Just..calm down..

Mary looks at them, then turns and walks slowly away. Girls follow, act as though they are still talking to her. Priest and Joseph enter stage left.

PRIEST: Shalom Joseph, I just passed your place. I see your house is coming along. What is the date of the wedding?

JOSEPH: (*joyfully*) Only my father knows!

PRIEST: Ahh, good man Joseph. I hear your betrothed is home from visiting her relatives.

JOSEPH: Yes, I couldn't wait. I am on my way to see her! I know, I know, we are not to spend time together until the wedding. I just need to see her, just for a minute.

PRIEST: (*smiling*) You are a good and righteous man, Joseph. Shalom.

Priest exits.

Joseph walks toward girls, sees Mary holding and protecting her belly, overhearing all they say.

TAMAR: Is it Joseph's baby?

MARY: No. It's not like that.

ABIGAIL: (*loudly*) MARY!!

TAMAR: What does the law say? She could be stoned or something, couldn't she?

ABIGAIL: Of course she could!

TAMAR: Does your betrothed even know you're having a baby?

ABIGAIL (*looking at Joseph*): From the look on his face, I'd say he doesn't.

Girls exit, giving her dirty looks and looking sarcastically at Joseph.

JOSEPH: (*very disturbed*) Mary?

MARY: Joseph..It's not what you might think, Joseph.

JOSEPH: That's good. Because from what I just heard.. and what I'm seeing, it makes it seem that.... you are with child.

MARY: I AM with child. (*smiling*) A very special child.

JOSEPH: (*turns away, burying his head in his hands*) How..(*loudly at first, then realizing he must keep his voice down*) How could you Mary? (*turns away*)

MARY: Joseph, it's not what you think. I've done nothing wrong.

JOSEPH: (*angrily*) You made promises Mary. Before the Almighty and all those people.

MARY: I know. And I've broken no pledge to you. (*she reaches to him but he pulls away*) Joseph...

JOSEPH: How can you say that when you've obviously...? (*can't bring himself to say it*)

MARY: I haven't been untrue to you.

JOSEPH: (*angry*) Well then, we have very different definitions of 'untrue'. You know you could..(*stepping in so as not to be overheard*) you could be stoned for such a sin? **Why** would you..

MARY: Please listen. An *angel* came to me..

JOSEPH: An angel?...(*shaking his head in disbelief*) I've been building a house for us Mary. It's nearly finished.

MARY: And I want to live there with you as your wife. (*reaches out to him*)

JOSEPH: (*he moves away*) Don't. I can't...It just hurts **so** much Mary. How could you do this to me? To us?

Moves stage right, Mary follows.

MARY: Joseph, if you just listen, I think you could be happy and excited about this.

Joseph pulls away.

JOSEPH: Happy? No, Mary. I don't understand why you aren't taking this more seriously...(*he paces up and down*) Listen..(*steps closer, speaking quietly*) Listen, I will divorce you quietly. I wouldn't want you harmed. But, I can't..

MARY: Divorce? Oh Joseph, no! Please, come back. Let me explain..

Joseph backs away. Mary collapses in a heap of tears, stage right. Joseph in agony exits stage left.

MARY: Oh Lord, help. Everything is dark. So, so dark. Darkness everywhere. (*weeps into her white wedding dress, then she startles and gasps, sits up, holding her belly, with growing joy*) You're moving. You're *moving!* God in me, I feel you... You will be my light.

Tentative: Mary and Joseph sing new song by D. Morrison "Let There Be Light" split track

Instrumental Music. Lights out.

SCENE 4 – SHEPHERDS

Lights up. Instrumental music fades out.

BEN: Where is Yoki?

ASHER: I haven't seen him.

BEN: I rescued another one of his lambs today. Two, actually. Two today. And one yesterday...Asher, you are a good lad. And you will make a good shepherd. Our job is one of the most important in Israel. Can you tell me why, Asher?

ASHER: Because it is our job to raise the sacrificial lambs.

BEN: And..why is that important? ...You need to know this. Not only know, but be able to explain it.

ASHER: It is important because the sacrificial lambs must be kept perfect, flawless...and without the perfect lambs, there can be no sacrifice..and without the sacrifice.. there can be no forgiveness of sins.

BEN: Yes, you see why our job is most important. You are learning not to be an ordinary shepherd, but a priestly shepherd. We must be most skilled in caring for and protecting the sacrificial lambs and be knowledgeable in the scriptures as well. So do not neglect your studies.

ASHER: King David was very knowledgeable in the scriptures. And he kept sheep on these same pastures, didn't he, Ben?

BEN: Yes he did. Right here at Migdal Eder.

ASHER: Don't some people say that here is where the Messiah will come?

BEN: Yes. In the scriptures of Micah. 'And you, O Migdal Eder, tower of the flock – (*pointing*) that tower there -.. to you shall it come, the kingdom...'

ASHER: And Bethlehem?

BEN: 'But you, Bethlehem..out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.'

ASHER: What is wrong with Yoki?

BEN: You are full of many questions tonight...Yoki.. hears many lies in his head. He does not know what to believe. He needs our prayers.

ASHER: I will pray for him.

Yoki enters, tired, with a small lamb in his arms. Sits by the fire with them. There is a moment of silence. Ben glances up but back at fire.

ASHER: Yoki, you're limping! And you're bleeding!

YOKI: Yeah well, I fell off a.. little cliff, and got caught in a thorn bush.

BEN: (*nodding toward the lamb in Yoki's arms*) Where did **that** one come from?

YOKI: He went missing earlier.

BEN: And that's where you've been for all these hours? You have..how many others to watch over?

YOKI: At the moment, 99.

BEN: And it's worth risking the others to go after that little one?

YOKI: Kokhav. His name is Kokhav.

BEN: Oh they have names now.

YOKI: Well, of course. They all have names.

ASHER: Kokhav – star. Why is his name Star?

YOKI: When he was born I started noticing that star up there (*points*). It's new.

ASHER: A new star? It's very bright...

BEN: A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.

YOKI: (*scoffing*) Ugh! More prophesy.

ASHER: Yoki?

YOKI: (*sour, irritated*) What?

ASHER: Do you ever get scared out there? In the fields - alone?

YOKI: I don't know.

ASHER: King David used to have to slay bears..and lions out in these fields.

BEN: There are worse things to fear than bears and lions.

ASHER: Like what?

BEN: There are bears and lions not made of flesh and bone – ravenous beasts that would like to kill more than the body. They want to kill the soul!

YOKI: Why do you scare the boy with such stories?

BEN: Out here in these fields, he is a man. And it is true. We must guard our hearts and our minds from such attacks.

ASHER: But how?

BEN: By reading and memorizing the scriptures. By praying to the Almighty. He will help us, as He helped King David.

ASHER: And He will send us Messiah!

YOKI: (*scoffs*) Like that's going to happen.

BEN: You do not believe the prophecies?

YOKI: Nothing has happened for 400 years. Nothing! God has forgotten us. We just sit out in these fields year after year. In winter cold, in rainy season soaked to the bone, in stifling summer heat. For what? To raise and protect perfect lambs that just go to slaughter. And we work to keep The Law that not one of us can keep. I don't think God cares about us anymore. I'm certain He doesn't care about me.

BEN: Sometimes God's timing is different from our own.

Yoki rises, hands lamb to Asher and begins to walk away.

ASHER: Yoki..what about the sheep? You don't believe God cares, but **you** care about the sheep.

YOKI: I guess I care about the sheep. I just don't think God is going to do anything for me. I think I will spend my entire life out in these fields, doing the same thing over and over. Every night is the same..except for a bear once or twice in a life time. I will raise lambs every year, who then go to die.. and then I'll die. And other shepherds will take over and raise hundreds of thousands of more lambs that will all die. And nothing good will ever happen. What's the point?

Yoki exits

BEN: Yoki is a good shepherd. I have seen him take on a bear who attacked a lamb. Oh he was every bit as fierce as King David. You would have thought he was fighting Goliath.

YOKI: It was two bears!

BEN: ..You're right! It **was** two bears! Although one was small. *(makes a small size with his hand)*

YOKI: It was not that small!

Ben shrugs and laughs quietly with Asher.

Instrumental Music. Lights out. Anna, Simeon and Priest come onto thrust as curtain closes.

SCENE 5 – WAITING FOR MESSIAH

Lights up. Instrumental music fades out.

ANNA: I have the right to be here whenever I want.

PRIEST: You aren't meant to LIVE here! You need to go home.

ANNA: The temple of the Lord IS my home.

PRIEST: No it is not.

ANNA: I am waiting for Messiah and I will not leave until He comes.

PRIEST: That's ridiculous!

ANNA: Do you not believe the prophecies? You are a teacher of the Law and yet you do not believe what God has promised? That He will send Messiah to set us free?

PRIEST: Yes, but..

ANNA: I am waiting for Messiah and I will not be moved.

Priest grabs her.

ANNA: Get your hands off me! I have every right to be in the house of the Lord!

Simeon enters.

SIMEON: What is going on? Why do you harm this poor, old woman?

PRIEST: She NEVER leaves. She has made the temple her home!

SIMEON: Should not the dwelling place of the Almighty BE our home?

PRIEST: She claims she will not leave until she meets The Messiah. (*getting in Anna's face*) Your bones will rot here, old woman.

SIMEON: No they will not!! The Almighty has told me I will not die before I meet Him, The Promised One, The Messiah. And look at me! It will not be long now. (*coughs, catches his breath*). Any day now! (*coughs again*) Could be today..

Priest shakes them off and walks away.

SIMEON: Are you alright Anna?

ANNA: Growing old requires much chutzpah.

SIMEON: Don't I know it.

ANNA: I did not know that God had spoken such a promise to you!

SIMEON: He has. Let me tell you..

Instrumental music. Lights out. Open curtain.

SCENE 6 – HAVA NAGILA – THE WEDDING

Lights up. Instrumental music fades out.

Mary is sitting on bench outside her door, fingering her wedding dress. looking sad. In tears, she gets up and throws her dress into the door of the house. Then throws her veil in too.

MARY: What now, Lord? You said that I have found favor with you. You said this child is the holy one, the Son of God. If I have found favor with you, if I am so blessed as to carry this most special child of yours, then why are so many bad things happening to me? You will not abandon me now, will you? Show me what to do, Lord!

The sound of the Shofar is heard. Joseph arrives with others, happy and singing, with a wedding canopy. Mary sees the commotion, and runs into her doorway.

SONG: HAVA NAGILA – 1st version – First 0:24 seconds

Townies stay center stage with chuppah, while Joseph approaches Mary's door. (Mary, backstage, puts dress on over other costume)

JOSEPH: (*with abundant joy*) Aren't you ready Mary? Don't tell me you are not prepared for your bridegroom? Mary? I am standing at your door, knocking... Maa-ry? (*louder*) And I'm going to get louder and louder until you come out!

SONG: HAVA NAGILA – 2nd version full song

MARY: (*peeking out unsure, finger over her mouth to shh*) But I thought..you said..

JOSEPH: (*coming in close to her, loudly, excitedly*) The angel! The angel of the Lord came to me last night. He told me everything! It is just as you said. This child is from the Holy Spirit. And he told me a name too. He said, **we** are to name the child..

MARY and JOSEPH: Jesus!

JOSEPH: I have come to take you home! Come. (*holding his hand out, while stepping backward, waves her toward him with palm, and steps backwards toward the canopy*)

Mary starts out the door, with a wrap on that she then takes off revealing her wedding dress on. She goes back for her veil and comes out. Joseph stands by the canopy and motions for her to come. Mary, takes a deep breath, then runs joyfully to the canopy center stage. Mary circles him three times. Someone hands Joseph a wine glass and Joseph and Mary drink. Circle dance. Mary and Joseph, in the middle, dance in opposite circle direction. Possibly raise them up in two chairs. All shouting for joy.

As song ends, Roman soldier enters sternly with scroll.

SOLDIER: All right, break it up! Break it up!! I have orders to read to you. (*reading scroll*) 'By command of the Emperor, Caesar Augustus. A census will be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone must register in their own town for the census.' **Everyone**. There are NO exceptions. Begin preparations as soon as possible. The census must be completed by the end of the year.

Mary is happy, sees Joseph looking worried. Soldier looks at Mary's belly and looks at her in disgust.

MARY: Joseph?

JOSEPH: (*looking worried*) I'm from Bethlehem.

MARY: So? We're just married. They surely won't make *you* go?

JOSEPH: It's the Romans. And he said EVERYONE. That means... you will have to come as well. You're my wife now.

MARY: But Bethlehem is..

JOSEPH: A really long way. I know. If we walk..eight hours a day it will take us.. more than four days.

MARY: (*distraught*) Eight hours a day! (*holding her belly*) I can't! I'll never make it!

JOSEPH: Hey - (*pulls up her chin*) we are in this together. We will get there somehow. I will carry you on my back if I have to. (*They both laugh a small forced laugh, Mary begins to cry, Joseph comforts her*). The Almighty will provide. He will watch over us.

Lights out. Instrumental music – Hava Nagila repeat from 2:48-end. *Mary and Joseph walk through to thrust with travel bags as* **CURTAIN CLOSES.**

SCENE 7 – TRAVELING THROUGH JERUSALEM

Lights up.

JOSEPH: Everything is so expensive in Jerusalem. I was going to buy bread but I can't pay those prices.

MARY: Did you like the fish I cooked for you this morning? You didn't eat much.

JOSEPH: It was..(*searching for a word*) It was cooked fish. You cooked it up. You sure did.

MARY: I saw you throw some into the bushes.

JOSEPH: Okay. Guilty. I probably shouldn't have. It was just so.. so black and..so..dry.

MARY: I burnt it again. I'm sorry.

JOSEPH: It's okay. I can cook sometimes. Or we can cook together.

MARY bends over in pain.

JOSEPH: Are you alright? Is it the fish or the baby?

MARY: (*glares then punches him*) It's just.. tiredness probably.

JOSEPH: We should make it to Bethlehem by nightfall. We're not far now. You're doing great.

MARY: (*looking back at the Temple*) Why us Joseph? Why did the Holy One choose us? We are not so important.

JOSEPH: And what wondrous things will this child grow up to do – here in Jerusalem? In the Holy City?

They look around in wonder and smile. Mary gasps in pain.

JOSEPH: Okay, we need to get moving!

Mary and Joseph walk, exit by baptistry. Anna gets a glimpse of Mary and Joseph, senses something but as she does the Priest stops her.

PRIEST: I thought I told you..

ANNA: Don't you touch me! I will not be moved!

PRIEST: You're still here.

ANNA: I told you a thousand times. I am waiting for Messiah. He is coming soon. The Spirit of the Lord is on me – He has told me. You will see!

Simeon enters.

SIMEON: She is right. I too have been told. I will depart in peace after my eyes have seen His salvation! He is preparing in the presence of all the peoples. The thoughts from many hearts will be revealed.

PRIEST: You speak nonsense, both of you.

ANNA: Messiah is coming! Very soon! You will see! The light will come!

Priest shoves them off and exits. Anna looks tired.

SIMEON: Here, Anna sit down. You are tired. You should eat something.

Anna and Simeon sit on edge of stage.

ANNA: I am alright. I am fasting. Ah, Simeon, I have been a widow for so long. Since I was not much more than a girl. I am 84 now. I do not think the Holy One will have me here much longer and I know the Messiah will come, has to come, soon.

SIMEON: From Bethlehem, say the scriptures (*reaching out toward audience*) So close...

Simeon stands, then Anna stands.

SIMEON: The time is upon us. A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. Yahweh, you have told me I will not die before my eyes see your salvation. A child who is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. Sovereign Lord, what you promised, I believe!

ANNA: Oh Lord, I know you are sending your Messiah soon. Thank you! Thank you for what I do not yet see. You will do good things, beyond our imagination. Thank you, Yahweh. Thank you for what you will do!

Lights out. Instrumental music. Curtain opens. *Anna and Simeon exit inside curtain.*

SCENE 8 – LIGHT HAS COME

Instrumental music fades and “Light Has Come” song begins. Spotlight on manger scene.

SONG: “LIGHT HAS COME” Part 1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SarPjv6rUiQ&list=RDGMEMz3e4vKpJzevZUeQNb5klIlg&start_radio=1

(Barlow Girl – Hallelujah Light Has Come – Part 1)

Birth of Jesus - lights go on and off as we see Mary in labor.

0:07 – spot on, Mary in labor, Joseph pacing – spot off 0:17

0:27 – spot on, Mary pushing, Joseph encouraging – spot off 0:37

0:47 – spot on – pushing – 0:57 spot off

1:10 spot on, Mary breathing deeply, looking on, Joseph gathering baby – holds up – they laugh, look at and adore baby.

Lights out at 1:45 (on “believe”). Music off at 1:50.

SCENE 9 – ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Soft Lights up.

BEN: That wound is getting badly infected, Yoki.

YOKI: It doesn't matter..

BEN: You should have listened to me and dressed that wound every day. Soon I will have to cauterize it to kill the infection.

YOKI: (*glares at him*) You'll do no such thing.

ASHER: How is little runaway lamb? What's his name – Star – Kokhav, right?

YOKI: He's okay I guess.

ASHER: Here, I will put the salve on your wound for you.

YOKI: Go away! Leave me alone!

BEN: Come away Asher.

*Ben and Asher, move farther away. **Very soft lights, quite dark.***

YOKI: Kokhav – funny star. What are you doing up there?... God - Yahweh - if you're there.. I am stuck here in the darkness...I feel like I am drowning in darkness. Not because it is night. The darkness is getting darker. Where are you? I need you... Oh never mind. Why would **You** care about someone like me?

Suddenly ANGEL appears

GABRIEL: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. *(start song "Angels We Have Heard on High")* This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

SONG: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5mdybeyLVc>
Play 0-2:15 – cut to 3:16-4:07

OR New Song by B. Morrison "Let There Be Light" split track, sung by angels in aisles.

As songs ends, exit quickly through audience. *Next song begins immediately.*

SONG: "O COME O COME EMMANUEL" - The Piano Guys

BEN: Let's go! Let's go into Bethlehem!

ASHER: Are you coming Yoki?... Yo-kiiii??! Yoki?

BEN: Come on Asher! Come on!!

ASHER: But how will we know where to find the baby?

BEN: The angel said in a manger, wrapped in swaddling cloths. Where do we put the lambs when they are born and where do we wrap them in swaddling cloths to protect them and keep them perfect?

ASHER: The tower? Migdal Eder?

BEN: Yes! The tower of the flock! Let's go see if the baby's there - Hurry!

Tight spot finds Yoki standing in shock, jaw dropped. Long pause.

YOKI: Wait! Wait! I'm coming!

He begins to move, but is in pain and limps.

YOKI: Ouch..wait...I'm coming..(begins to descend steps in pain).. I'm coming Lord... wait. Lord God, please let me get there! *(Yoki agonizes as he makes his way off stage through aisle.)* Please – I want to

see this thing which you done. Don't let me miss it! I can't get there on my own strength. I need you Yahweh, God!

Lights out, music continues

SCENE 10 – MIGDAL EDER – THE SHEPHERDS GO

SONG Continues

Soft lights on stage.

Asher and Ben rush into manger scene. Mary and Joseph look bewildered and shocked at the intrusion.

ASHER: *(flustered with excitement, to Mary and Joseph)* He's here! The baby is here just as they said! They said..lots of them..thousands maybe..they said he would be here in the manger and..and..he is here..wrapped, like they said..

BEN: *(arriving out of breath)* Oh! Praise be to God! It's just as the angel said. Did you see them? So many! He told us to come and see. The angel said this baby is Christ the Lord!

Joseph shrugs, elbows Mary and smiles.

ASHER: He is perfect, isn't he Ben?

BEN: Yes, He is perfect!

ASHER: Hello Little Lamb! I will call you that, for you are in the place where special lambs are born.

Yoki enters slowly on hands and knees and collapses almost there. Mary looks up in a slow motion sequence rushes to him, with baby in arms. As she reaches and touches Yoki's shoulder, he looks up in slow motion to behold the face of Jesus right in front of his.

Lights out.

Instrumental Music. Close curtain

SCENE 11 – THE PRESENTATION AT THE TEMPLE

Instrumental Music fades out. Lights up.

MARY: *(joyfully)* He's already getting so much bigger, don't you think?

JOSEPH: *(deep in thought, distant)* He is.

MARY: What is wrong, Joseph? This is a special day. We get to present Jesus at the temple.

JOSEPH: *(sighs, and speaks to her closely, making sure no one overhears)* Mary, I'm sorry I do not have the money to pay for a lamb sacrifice. I am embarrassed to only offer pigeons. It's so expensive here. I wanted to present him with the **best** – for all The Holy One has done for us. I'm down to our last half-shekel *(holds out his palm with the coin)*.

MARY: If He wanted us to present a lamb, He would have provided for one.

YOKI: *(entering excited to see them)* Mary! Joseph! Shalom! *(he hugs and kisses cheeks)* How good it is to see you! How is the most precious child? He's gotten so much bigger in just, what six weeks? Hello little Lamb! *(kisses baby's head)* What brings you to Jerusalem?

MARY: It is the day to present Jesus at the temple and bring sacrifice.

YOKI: Wonderful! Well, you need a lamb. *(pauses and thinks about his little lamb, then smiles)* Wait. I have a most special one for you! *(turns excitedly as if to go get it)*

JOSEPH: No, no Yoki. We cannot pay.

YOKI: Oh no charge! No charge of course. For the Savior. He must have a lamb offering! I'll be right back.

JOSEPH: No, Yoki. We cannot bring a sacrifice that costs us nothing. I think we have enough for two pigeons.

YOKI: Yes, I see. You are right. Well, *(goes to baby, kisses his head again)* blessings on you little one and your family. May you grow in strength and wisdom and in favor with God and man...Thank you Jesus, for coming and saving me...Shall we go get your parents what they need? This way! This way!

All exit through baptistry. Yoki with excited joy leading the way.

Anna and Simeon enter Temple scene. They are praying. – not in TOL performances

SONG: "LIGHT HAS COME" plays here through end of Visitors Scene.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SarPJv6rUiQ&list=RDGMEMz3e4vKpJzevZUeQNb5kllg&start_radio=1)

[v=SarPJv6rUiQ&list=RDGMEMz3e4vKpJzevZUeQNb5kllg&start_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SarPJv6rUiQ&list=RDGMEMz3e4vKpJzevZUeQNb5kllg&start_radio=1)

00:05 – Lights on Anna and Simeon *(come from sitting front row audience)* waiting at the temple, tired, Priest looking on shaking head

0:15 – Lights out

0:25 – Lights on Anna and Simeon and Priest – *praying, arguing. Mary and Joseph approach with Yoki behind. Mary and Joseph are about to walk by.*

0:44 – on the lyric "cry" - Suddenly Anna and Simeon sense and see and know and claw past priest to get to Jesus. At 0:55 they reach them. Joy. Embrace.

Lights out at 1:20 on song. Song continues.

SCENE 12 – VISITORS

Lights up at 1:40. Three wise men with backs to audience. They all bow at once at 1:47 in song, to reveal Mary and Joseph at a door way with jaws dropped, holding young Jesus. Joseph elbows Mary, they share a smile. **Lights out at 2:06 in song.**

SCENE 13 – FINALE

“Let There Be Light” split track by D. Morrison

Final Words:

JOSEPH:

Humankind was lost in a world of darkness, sin and death until God sent His only son Jesus - the light - to save us. Jesus is the only way for us to be made pure before God and to live with him forever! This baby Jesus grew up and willingly gave his life and died to pay for all our sins.

MARY:

We celebrate tonight the birth of Jesus. And tonight He may be born in your heart as well. The Bible says “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” That’s all it takes. Please come see cast members in front of the stage if you want to talk, pray or learn more about trusting Jesus for eternal life!

FULL CAST: Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. Merry Christmas!