

## Christmas Pageant 2022

“I’m dreaming of a bright Christmas”

### **Intro – Puppet Dialogue # 1**

Tony: (Hidden from view) Ava, it’s time for the show to start, okay. Remember, just stay here and don’t make a lot of noise. (Speaking to himself and getting in position) Working from home sure has its own set of challenges.

*Enters Puppet Stage*

Tony: Oh, hello there everyone. Merry Christmas! My name is Tony, and I have a very special story I would like to share with you today. (Clearing throat before starting to speak...)

Ava: (Still hidden from view, making lots of noise with toy drum, interrupting Tony – Stops when Ava’s name is called)

Tony: (Looking down towards Ava) Ava, are you playing the drums? That’s like the definition of a lot of noise.

Ava: (Entering Puppet Stage, looking at Tony then at the audience) Sorry, dad. I was trying to do one of those drum rolls. I thought your story could use an exciting musical intro.

Tony: (Looking at Ava then at the audience) Oh. Well, thanks for trying to help, but how about we stick to the script?

Ava: I didn’t get a script.

Tony: Yes, I know. That’s kinda the point.

Ava: Oh... Sorry dad. I’ll go back to my room and try not to make too much noise.

*Ava Exits puppet stage*

Tony: Thank you Ava. Now, where was I... Oh right, (clears throat)

It was a cool December afternoon the day before Tracey’s family Christmas. She had been working around the clock to make this Christmas the best one her family had ever had. With so much still to do, Tracey asked her good friend Carolyn to help with some of the decorations.

*Tony Exits Puppet stage*

### **Scene 1 – Putting Up The Lights**

*Tracey and Carolyn are on set working on decorating the house*

Tracey: Hey Carolyn, thank you for coming over to help me put up my Christmas lights.

Carolyn: Oh no problem, I didn’t have much to do today anyway. Although, I’m pretty sure we’ve spent more time untangling the lights, then we have putting them up.

Tracey: I know. Sorry about that. Every year, no matter how carefully I put them away, they always seem to get tied up in knots.

Carolyn: This is why I don't put Christmas lights up at my house.

Tracey: How can you celebrate Christmas without Christmas lights? That's like trying to celebrate a birthday without a cake.

Carolyn: You do know that Christmas lights weren't invented until 1880, and that people celebrated Christmas long before then, right?

Tracey: Thanks for the history lesson Carolyn. All I'm saying is that Christmas lights make Christmas better.

Carolyn: And how do they do that?

Tracey: Well, Carolyn ... For one thing, they make this room look a lot better. Wait until you see what I picked up from Goodwill today. (Grab Santa) Can you believe I only paid \$10 bucks for this?

Carolyn: Actually... I can.

Tracey: I've put a 300-watt bulb in here. This thing is going to shine brighter than the high beams on Gerald's truck.

Carolyn: I thought you wanted this room to look better, not just brighter.

Tracey: Oh, its going to be both!

*Sierra and Ivy Enter Center Stage*

Sierra: Hey mom, we found that box of lights you asked us to get from the basement.

Tracey: Oh great. What took you so long.

Ivy: Well, we would have found them a lot sooner if they weren't in a box labelled "Claw" (turn box to show label to the audience)

Tracey: Oh, yeah. That's an acronym. It stands for Christmas lights and wreaths. I guess I should have mentioned that.

Sierra: Really mom? Anyway, can we go build a snow fort now?

Tracey: Yeah, just make sure you wear your snow suits.

*Sierra and Ivy exit Stage Left; Gerald Enters Stage Left.*

Ivy: (To Gerald) Oh, hi dad. Bye dad.

Gerald: (To Sierra and Ivy) Bye.

Tracey: Oh, hi honey. What do you think of the decorations so far?

Gerald: (Hanging his coat on the coat stand) So far? How much more do you plan on doing? You know that tomorrow is our family Christmas, right?

Tracey: I just have one more box of lights and wreaths, and then all I have to do is program some of these lights to dance to our favourite Christmas songs. It's going to be the best Christmas we've ever had.

Gerald: That sounds like a lot. Does that mean that you will be staying for supper, Carolyn?

Carolyn: Actually, I should probably get going. I have some decorating to do of my own.

Tracey: Thanks for all your help, Carolyn.

Carolyn: Your welcome Tracey. See ya, Gerald.

Gerald: Bye, Carolyn! (Once Carolyn has left) Well, I'm going to get started on supper. Don't stress too much about the decorations. That's not what people remember anyway. They remember if the food was delicious or not. (Exits stage right)

Tracey: (Speaking to herself) Oh, they will remember the decorations this year! (Quietly singing) "I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas. Brighter than the ones I used to know."

## **Interlude – Puppet Dialogue # 2**

*Tony Enters Puppet Stage*

Tony: Tracey worked away at making her dream of having a bright Christmas come true. A few hours later, supper was ready, and everyone gathered around the table...

Ava: (Enters puppet stage interrupting) Did you say supper was ready?

Tony: (Initially Confused) What? Supper? Oh, yeah. Supper is ready in our story.

Ava: So, supper isn't ready?

Tony: It's only 10:30 in the morning? Why would supper be ready?

Ava: Well, I've heard of breakfast for supper, so I thought maybe we were going to be having supper for breakfast.

Tony: We already had breakfast.

Ava: Second breakfast?

Tony: We will have lunch after the show, but until then can you go back to playing quietly (emphasis on quietly) in your room?

Ava: (Sadly) Yes.

*Ava Exits Puppet stage*

Tony: (To Ava) Thank you. (To the audience) What was I saying? Oh right, Tracey worked away at making her dream of having a bright Christmas come true. A few hours later, supper was ready, and everyone gathered around the table eager to talk about their day.

*Tony Exits Puppet stage*

## **Scene 2 – Family Dinner**

*Tracey, Sierra, Ivy, and Gerald at the dinner table.*

Sierra: You won't believe the size of the fort we built. It was two stories tall, and we had a slide from the top floor to the bottom floor.

Gerald: Wow, it sounds like everyone was working hard today. Let's pray before we start. Ivy, would you like to pray tonight?

Ivy: Sure. God is great. God is good. Let us thank him for our food. By his hands, we are fed. Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen.

Gerald: Thank you Ivy. Now, let's eat. (Pause) So, Tracey, why are you putting so much more energy into decorating for our family Christmas this year?

Tracey: I want Christmas to really mean something this year. Christmas is always fun, and it's good. You know, we have Grandpa over, and he tells us about his fishing stories. We have turkey, and you make your mom's delicious sweet potato casserole (looking at Gerald). And you guys, (Looking at Sierra and Ivy) are always excited to open your presents, but I can't help but feel like we're missing something.

Sierra: I put a horse on my Christmas list this year, maybe that's what we're missing? We could dress it up like a reindeer, and it would be like we're in the North Pole.

Ivy: Whatever it is, it's probably missing because you labelled it with an acronym.

Gerald: What? (Distracted for a second by Ivy's response) Tracey, what do you think is missing?

Tracey: Well, I feel like we haven't quite tapped into the spirit of Christmas. For the last few weeks on my way home from work, I've driven by some houses with these amazing decorations, and I feel like Christmas is so much bigger than our simple traditions. There's just something about Christmas lights for me that conveys the spirit of Christmas.

Gerald: Well, we have lots of lights this year. So, if that's what we've been missing, I don't think we have anything to worry about.

Tracey: I wish you guys could feel what I'm feeling. (Pause) You know what, after supper, I'm going to take you guys to see the houses I drive by on my way home from work. Then, you'll understand what I'm talking about.

Sierra: Can we get candy cane hot chocolate on the way?

Tracey: We sure can, Sierra.

Sierra: Then, I'm in.

Ivy: Me to.

Tracey: Gerald? (Wanting to know what Gerald thinks)

Gerald: That sounds like fun, but don't be too disappointed if we don't have the same experience you did.

*Tracey, Sierra, Ivy, and Gerald grab their coats, and exit stage left.*

### **Interlude – Puppet Dialogue # 3**

*Tony Enters Puppet Stage*

Tony: After supper...

Ava: (interrupting while hidden from view) Coming!

Tony: (Looking down at Ava) It's not supper time, Ava. I'm still just telling the story.

Ava: (Sadly, and still hidden from view) Awww.

Tony: After supper, Tracey packed the family into their truck and took them for a drive, showing them all the beautifully decorated houses that she would pass on her way home from work.

*Tony Exits Puppet Stage*

### **Scene 3 – Saturday Night Lights**

*4 Chairs are set up in center of stage - Tracey, Sierra, Ivy and Gerald are on set in vehicle (with coffee cups).*

*Show House Picture # 1 on Screen*

Tracey: Just up here on the right is one of my favourites. Doesn't it just make you want to start signing Christmas carols?

Sierra: (starts signing) Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way...

Tracey: (Interrupting Sierra) Very funny, Sierra.

Gerald: It is beautiful. I wonder how long it took them to put all of those lights up.

Tracey: Wait until you see the one up the road here.

*Show House Picture # 2 on Screen*

Tracey: Isn't it amazing?

Gerald: It is quite impressive. It's almost like they had an engineer put up their Christmas lights.

Ivy: Why would they have a train conductor put up their Christmas lights?

Gerald: No, Ivy. I'm talking about a structural engineer, someone who designs buildings and structures.

Tracey: Just remember how this house makes you feel when I show you the next one.

*Show House Picture # 3 on Screen*

Tracey: How does this house make you feel?

Sierra: Are you sure this is the right house? The only lights I see are the ones on the Christmas tree in the window.

Gerald: Isn't this Carolyn's house?

Tracey: Yes. The only Christmas lights she puts up are on her tree. After seeing those other houses, doesn't it feel like something's missing here?

Gerald: I do notice a difference. Maybe there is some relationship between Christmas and Christmas lights. The tree in the window is beautiful though.

*Tracey, Sierra, Ivy, and Gerald Exit Stage left – Chairs are moved to floor for scene 4.*

#### **Interlude – Puppet Dialogue # 4**

Tony: After seeing several houses with spectacular light displays, extravagant decorations, and being convinced that Tracey's dream was somewhat rooted in reality, Tracey and her family headed home. The next morning, after breakfast, Tracey and her family got back into the truck and headed to The Mission. Once at The Mission, Tracey and Gerald got some coffee and made their way into the sanctuary for the Sunday morning worship service, while Sierra and Ivy went to their Mission Kids class. (Speaking to himself/herself while exiting the puppet stage) I can't believe Ava didn't interrupt me that time. It's a Christmas miracle.

#### **Scene 4 – Mission Inception**

*Tracey and Gerald take a seat with their coffee cups in the 2 chairs on the floor*

*Ryan and Worship Team Enter Stage*

Ryan: Good Morning, today we have a special treat for you. Our choir will be leading us in our opening worship song. While they take their place, let me just share with you a few announcements for this week. (Share Announcements)

*Children's Choir Enter Stage*

Children's Song – Light of the World (VBS) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI302Av7vSI>

*Children's Choir Exit Stage*

- Worship Song

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Congregational Prayer

Offering – Light of the World (Lauren Daigle) – Sierra Hiebert

Really Short Message: Jesus is the Light of the world.

- Worship Song

*Worship Team, Ryan, Tracey, and Gerald Exit Stage (Sierra and Ivy position themselves back stage)*

### **Interlude – Puppet Dialogue # 5**

*Tony Enters Puppet Stage*

Tony: After the service, Tracey and her family rushed home to finish preparing for the family Christmas supper they had planned for later that night...

Ava: (Enters puppet stage interrupting Tony) Okay dad, it must be supper time now. There can't possibly be that many suppers in the script.

Tony: Well actually, Ava, there are that many suppers in the script. It's not all that surprising though, this is the pageant script for The Mission Church after all. They love their breakfasts, lunches, and suppers.

Ava: So, its not supper time?

Tony: No. Let me finish up here, and I'll get you a snack.

Ava: Oh, awesome! I love snacks.

*Ava Exits Puppet Stage*

Tony: After the service, Tracey and her family rushed home to finish preparing for the family Christmas supper they had planned for later that night. Tracey had just finished programing the last of her lights and Gerald was pulling his sweet potato casserole out of the oven, when the doorbell rang.

*Tony Exits Puppet Stage*

### **Scene 5 – Lights Out**

*Tracey and Gerald enter the stage (Tracey is sitting on the couch, while Gerald is placing a dish on the table when the scene begins)*

*Door Bell*

Gerald: I'll get it. (Goes toward the door to answer it) – (while answering the door) Merry Christmas mom, come on in.

Elva: Merry Christmas, Gerald. (Taking off her coat and hanging it on the coat stand) You must have made your sweet potato casserole again; it smells amazing in here.

Gerald: I sure did. Supper is almost ready. (Going over to and speaking to Tracey) I told you, Tracey, people don't remember the decorations. They remember the food. (Exit stage right after Tracey's response)

Tracey: (Speaking to Gerald) Well, your mom hasn't seen my decorations in motion yet. (Going over and speaking to Elva, putting a hand on her shoulder) Merry Christmas, Elva. I've got something I want to show you, just stand here. I'll be right back. (Tracey exits behind set)-(while exiting) Oh by the way, you might want to turn your hearing aids down. (Counting down) Three, Two...

*Lights go out*

Elva: I don't get it. Is something supposed to be happening?

Gerald: (Rushing in from stage right shouting out to Tracey) Tracey, are you okay? The power went out in the kitchen.

*Sierra and Ivy Enter from behind center set*

Sierra: What happened? We were playing a game in the other room and the lights went out. (Short pause) Oh, hi grandma. (Sierra and Ivy run to give Elva a hug)

Elva: Hi kids!

Tracey: (Slowly enters from behind center set.) I'm okay. I'm okay, but I'm not sure how good our Christmas will be. It looks like the power is out on the whole block. (Slowly approaching the chair and sitting down) I guess I'll have to go another year feeling like Christmas just wasn't all that it could be.

*Everyone Sits down*

Gerald: Oh, I'm sorry. I know you put a lot of work into decorating this year. I'm sure the power will come back on soon.

Tracey: I hope so. (Looking at Gerald) I know you put a lot into getting our dinner ready too. Any chance it was ready before the power went out?

Gerald: Well, the Sweet Potato Casserole is ready, but I was still working on everything else. What are we going to do?

Tracey: I don't know. I guess we should start by getting out the candles.

Gerald: That's a good idea.

*Tracey and Gerald get the candles, place them on the table, and light them.*

Sierra: I know what we could do; we could open presents! Maybe we got some new toys that run on batteries.

Tracey: I'm pretty sure the only thing we got you that runs on batteries is a toothbrush.

Ivy: Does that mean you got us the new PlayStation 5?

Gerald: (To Ivy) We are not going to get into what you got for Christmas. You can wait until you open them on Christmas day. (To Elva) I'm sorry mom, you must be hungry.

Elva: I'm okay! You know, Christmas dinners are great, and Christmas lights can help remind us that we have a reason to celebrate, but we don't have to worry so much about how we celebrate Christmas. To me, it's more important for us to remember why we celebrate, and for us to remember who we are celebrating. Jesus came to be the light of the world, a light that will never be overcome by darkness. Jesus came to save us, to give us hope, to show us God's love, to give us joy, and to give us peace with God. If we let this amazing news be our motivation to celebrate, nothing can stop us from having a good Christmas.

Tracey: Maybe that's what has been missing. I've been so caught up in what Christmas does for me that I have been ignoring what Christ has done for me, and what He continues to do for me.

Elva: How about I read the story of Jesus' birth while we wait for the power to come back on.

Gerald: That sounds lovely, mom.

Ivy: I'll go get the Bible.

*Ivy gets the bible and brings it back to Elva*

### **Scene 6 – Jesus is Born**

Elva: Read Luke. 1:26-38

*Angel Enters the Stable*

(To Sierra) Sierra, would you like to read the next part?

Sierra: Yeah, I can do that. (Elva passes the bible to Sierra) Read Luke 2:1-5

*Mary and Joseph enter the stable*

Ivy: Sierra, can I read the next part?

Sierra: You sure can, Ivy. (Sierra passes the bible to Ivy)

Ivy: Read Luke 2:6-7 dad, you should read the next part. (Ivy passes the bible to Gerald)

Gerald: Okay. Thank you Ivy. Read Luke 2:8-20

*Shepherds enter the stable*

Gerald: (Gerald passes Tracey the bible) Here, Tracey, you can read the last part.

Tracey: Thank you, Gerald. Read Matt. 2:1-2; 9-11

*Magi enter the stable*

## **Interlude – Puppet Dialogue # 6**

*Tony Enters Puppet Stage*

Tony: After reading about the events leading up to and following Jesus' birth from the bible, the whole family was filled with a fresh sense of the hope, love, joy, and peace of Christ; Jesus, the light of the world, shown in their hearts like the star that led the magi to Bethlehem. In that way, Tracey's dream of having a bright Christmas did come true. The coming of Jesus was such great news to Tracey that she wanted to share it with the world, so she gathered her family and arranged to go Christmas Caroling in the neighbourhood.

Tony: (Talking to himself as he exits) I wonder what Ava is up to. I haven't heard from her in a while.

*Tony Exits Puppet Stage*

Video Clip of Tony finding Ava in messy room.

Tony: Ava, what are you doing? I should have know that something was going on, considering you were being so quite.

Ava: I was playing with the toilet paper. I figured that it was a good choice, because it doesn't make any noise. It's a lot of fun too.

Tony: Oh, Ava, I'll help you clean this up, but first, I think you'll want to see the ending of the Pageant.

Ava: Oh, okay. Is it a happy ending? I love happy endings.

*Tony and Ava Enter Puppet Stage*

## **Scene 7 – This Little Light of Mine**

Tracey: I don't know about you guys, but I'm glad that the power went out. I needed to be reminded of the difference between celebrating Christmas and celebrating Christ.

Ivy: Me too, but how should we celebrate Christ?

Tracey: What is your heart telling you to do, Ivy?

Ivy: Umm. Well, I kinda want to tell people about Jesus, like the shepherds did.

Tracey: How about you, Sierra?

Sierra: I want to praise God and sing like the angels.

Tracey: Let's do that! Grab your coats. Let's go to our neighbours and share the light of Jesus with them.

*Tracey, Sierra, Ivy, Gerald, and Elva grab their coats, and move to the side, while everyone else joins them on stage.*

Sing "This Little Light of Mine"

*The End Slide*