

THE
CAROLS
OF
CHRISTMAS



VOL. 2

A COMMUNITY CAROL CELEBRATION FOR ALL AGES

DRAMA SCRIPT

by Lisa Parker

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The Carols of Christmas

Drama Script

by Lisa Parker

Synopsis:

*A weary mom ponders the question,
“What if there were no December 25th?”*

Characters:

Calli – a mom

Trey - her son (4-6 grade)

Evelyn - her daughter (Middle/High school)

Ken - her husband

Mary - the mother of Jesus

Shepherd

Gloria – Calli’s grandmother

Caroler

Carolers - group of singer

Little Calli – (elementary age)

Little Cal-li’s Mom - (young woman, 20s–30s)

“Alexa” type voice (offstage)

Props:

- Decorated Christmas Tree
- Arm Chair
- Side Table
- Gloria’s Bible (laying on side table)
- Personal Planner
- An unopened package of commercially made cookies
- Red or White Folding Chair
- Speaker (like an Echo Dot™)
- Flute (or other instrument)
- Winter coats for Ken, Calli, and Evelyn
- Banners or a large cross for processing in Scene Six

Setting:

One side of the stage is a “family” room with the Christmas tree, arm chair, side table, and Bible. The other side is bare except for a single, solid red or white folding chair. The choir will fill the loft (in the center of most churches).

SCENE ONE

(Preset: All props are in place. Choir is seated in loft. Set lights are low.)

Song: “Festive Overture”

(Just before song ends, lights come up on family set. Evelyn enters set in a huff. She is holding a flute. She rolls her eyes.)

Evelyn: *(at song cut off, looking offstage)* MOM!!! I can’t practice with your music up so loud! *(pause for response—there is none)* Alexa, turn off the music! *(Time this to be spoken as Alexa “turns off music” of the “Festive Overture.”)*

Alexa: *(voice offstage—This may also be a pre-record)* Turning off music.

(Calli enters holding her planner.)

Calli: I thought you were practicing for the school concert. Why is my music off?

Evelyn: I was practicing, but I can’t hear over your music!

Calli: I’m sorry, honey. Alexa, turn down the music.

Alexa: *(voice offstage)* Your music is currently off. Would you like to turn it on?

(spoken at the same time)

Calli: Yes!

Evelyn: No!

Evelyn: Alexa, we’re having an argument—again.

Alexa: *(voice offstage)* I’m sorry. I can’t help you with that.

Calli: Never mind. Just leave it off.

Evelyn: *(starting to exit)* Thank you!

Trey: *(running in)* Hey Mom! Don’t forget about . . .

Calli: *(interrupting, holding up her planner)* Oh! While you’re both here, do you have any idea why December 25th is missing from my planner?

Evelyn: No. Did someone take that page out?

Trey: I didn't do it!

Calli: Why would anyone do that? And why December 25th?

Evelyn: No December 25th? No Christmas? That would be strange.

Trey: And terrible! No presents!

Calli: Can you imagine what the world would be like if Christ hadn't been born?

Evelyn: I don't think I want to.

(doorbell rings / or a knock at the door)

Calli: Oh! That must be the caroling group from work! I forgot they were coming! Evelyn, go get those cookies you made yesterday.

Evelyn: I thought you were making the cookies.

Calli: Oh dear—just grab that package of cookies from the pantry! Hurry!

(Evelyn exits to grab a package of cookies offstage.)

Trey: Wait, Mom! Did you remember tonight's . . .

Calli: *(going to the inside edge of the family set, calling)* Ken! Come here, please! The office carolers are here!

(Calli drops her planner in the chair and exits to open the door.)

Trey: But Mom!

(Calli goes offstage on the outside edge and we hear the sounds of her greeting the carolers.)

Carolers: *(offstage)* Merry Christmas!

Calli: *(coming back into the set, walking backwards)* Merry Christmas! Please come in everyone!

(Carolers enter. Size of group can be determined by how much space you have. They can spill out beyond the set if necessary.)

(music begins for "Celtic Christmas Celebration")

(Ken enters opposite, followed by Evelyn holding a package of cookies.)

Calli: *(over intro)* I've been looking forward to you coming all day! Nothing helps me get in the Christmas spirit faster than music! *(gives Evelyn the 'side-eye')*

Song: "Celtic Christmas Celebration"

(During the song, lights can fade on drama area and come up bright on the choir. Actors stay in character, with carolers and the family singing/enjoying.)

(At end of song, family claps. Lights fade on choir and come up on family set.)

Calli: That was wonderful! *(rest of family ad libs agreement)* Would you like some . . . *(taking the package from Evelyn)* . . . cookies? I'm sorry. I just haven't had time to bake anything.

Caroler: It's fine! We'll take them with us. After we get through caroling, we're all meeting at my house for an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" party. Maybe you could join us?

Calli: That sounds great, but Trey has a Christmas concert later tonight. *(looks at watch)* Oh no! It's in 45 minutes! Trey, why didn't you say something?

(Trey just shrugs and rolls his eyes.)

Ken: Thank you all for coming. I'll see you out. *(exits with carolers the way they came in)*

Calli: Trey, go get dressed and hurry up! *(Trey runs off.)* Evelyn, you're coming, too! This is a family event.

Evelyn: But I have . . .

Calli: *(interrupting her)* You have things to do. Yes, I know. So do I. But this is important, and it's Christmas, and we're all going. *(exit)*

Evelyn: *(picking up Calli's planner from the chair)* Unless Christmas gets cancelled. *(puts the planner down and exits)*

(lights down on family set)

SCENE TWO

(lights up on center stage and choir)

Pastor/Choir Director: *(to the congregation)* As we begin our concert, I hope you will accept the special invitation God extends to us this Christmas. Come.

Do you need hope? Then come.

Are you worried or tired? Come.

Have you been waiting for something to happen in your life? Just come.
Come adore Him—and find rest.

(Ken, Calli, and Evelyn come in 'late' and sit down on front row. They have coats on, if it gets cold in your part of the country).

Song: “Come, Adore Him”

Song: “Christmastime” *(Include Trey in the children’s choir.)*

(After song, Ken and Calli return to the family set.)

(Lights fade on choir.)

SCENE THREE

(lights up on the family set)

(Calli and Ken enter set, returning from the concert. Ken helps Calli out of her coat while they talk.)

Ken: I was proud of Trey tonight.

Calli: It was a beautiful concert. Normally, that's all it would take to get me in the Christmas spirit.

Ken: I always wondered what that meant.

Calli: What what meant?

Ken: "Getting in the Christmas spirit." What exactly does that mean? How do you know you have the "Christmas spirit" as opposed to, say, indigestion?

Calli: I don't really know. It's just an expression, I guess. Maybe it means people are more hopeful that soon there really will be "peace on earth." Maybe it's when people are kinder than usual to their fellow man.

Ken: You haven't been out much lately, have you?

Calli: *(laughing)* I'll give it some thought, ok?

Ken: You know, there have been a few people I thought embodied the spirit of Christmas. Your grandmother Gloria was one. Maybe that's a good start.

Calli: Yeah...maybe.

Ken: Why don't you take a break? Go sit and enjoy the Christmas tree and a little peace and quiet. I'll go check on the kids. *(He pats Calli's shoulder.)*

Calli: I just might do that.

(Ken exits. Calli heads toward the chair, sees her planner lying there, picks it up and sits down, putting it in her lap. She thumbs through the pages.)

Another busy year—almost over. Time's going by so fast, I really can't afford to lose any days, especially Christmas day. *(bowing her head)* Dear Father, it's almost Christmas, but I'm not feeling the Christmas spirit. I'm not even sure I know what it is anymore. . . . *(she nods off)*

(Lights up on side set. Gloria enters opposite side of stage and stands in front of the red chair. She may also be the soloist for “A Soulful Holy Night.”)

Gloria: *(speaking to the congregation)* You know what her problem is, don't you? She's lost her focus. She's gotten distracted with all the “extras” of the season. And now she's upset because she's not feeling it. But it shouldn't be that way. And that's why I'm here! *(looking toward Calli)* Calli? *(pause, then louder)* CALLI! *(Calli looks up straight ahead, startled.)*

Over here, honey. *(Calli looks at Gloria, blinking and confused.)*

Calli: Grandma Gloria?

Gloria: I would say “in the flesh,” but you know better. You were there at my funeral. By the way, the words you said were so sweet, I could've cried—except there's no crying here!

Calli: *(standing, taking a couple of steps toward Gloria)* You look so beautiful! I sure do miss you. We had the best Christmases together.

Gloria: So what happened?

Calli: Life, I guess. Not just the busyness. It's more like—instead of feeling the joy of Christmas—I get sadder. I miss the people I've lost, like you. There was wonder and hope. I miss all that.

Gloria: Is that the whole point of Christmas, then? Feeling all warm and happy with the world?

Calli: I guess not. But it would be nice.

Gloria: Sit down, Calli. Let me share something that might help. That planner you have is missing December 25th.

Calli: *(shocked)* How did you know about . . .

Gloria: *(laughs, holds up her hand to stop Calli)* Let's just put it this way: I'm here and you're there, and “with God, nothing is impossible!” Okay? *(Matthew 19:26)*

Calli: *(smiles, relaxes)* Okay, Grandma.

Gloria: Anyway, seeing that missing page got you thinking. But you're not worried about Christmas day missing. Your real worry is about what you're already missing.

Calli: I haven't thought about it that way, but yeah; I feel like I'm missing something.

Gloria: What you're missing is the main thing. It's easy to get distracted, especially at Christmas. Is that my Bible on the side table?

Calli: Yes. I love to read the notes you took through the years.

Gloria: Good. Open it to John, Chapter 1. After John baptized Jesus, two of John's disciples followed Jesus away from the river. After a few minutes, Jesus turned around and asked them, "What are you looking for?" (*John 1:38*) That question still stands. What are you looking for? Family time? Decorated trees? The perfect gift?

When you were a little girl, I helped you draw a circle with your new school compass. You were struggling to get it right until I showed you how to put the point of the compass right at the center and hold it down firmly, then let it guide the pencil. You drew a perfect circle. Get the center right, and the rest will follow.

(music begins for "A Soulful Holy Night") (lights up on choir)

Gloria: *(over intro)* When Jesus was born, the heavens declared the glory of God, because there in that manger was the center of everything—Jesus.

Song: "A Soulful Holy Night" *(option: Gloria sings solo)*

SCENE FOUR

Calli: You're right, Grandma. I've lost my focus. Jesus must be at the center of everything around Christmas. If this is a dream, I hope I remember it after I wake up.

Gloria: We're not done yet, child. Let's go back to the Bible story from John. When Jesus turned around and asked John's disciples, "What are you looking for?" those guys (*shaking her head back and forth*) jumped like kids caught with their hand in the cookie jar and said the first thing that came to their mind! "Uh—we just wanted to see where you live!" (*John 1:38*)

That's us all over, isn't it? Always dodging the real issue. Jesus played along for the moment, even though He knew what they were really looking for. Then He gave an invitation for the whole world: "Come and see" (v. 39). Come and see who I am. Come and spend time with Me. There's so much I would love to show you. Behold—come and see!

Song: "Behold Him"

(When song begins, Calli goes to the arm chair and sits, thoughtful. Grandma Gloria exits at "Behold Him.")

(lights fade on stage; come up on choir)

SCENE FIVE

(lights fade on choir; come up on stage)

(Shepherd enters at end of “Behold Him” and sits in the red chair.)

Calli: *(standing, looking toward red chair)* You’re so right, Grandma!
I have to look at—*(sees the shepherd)* Oh! You’re a . . .

Shepherd: *(Actor needs to stand, sit, and walk around during this monolog to support his words)* . . . a shepherd, if you couldn’t tell by the outfit. Been one all my life. Your grandmother asked me to share my story. I was there that night, you know. Out on the hillside, tending sheep. I hated my job. Sheep are smelly and not very bright. They’ll walk off a cliff just to see what’s at the bottom. On top of that, I was allergic to wool.

(continuing, sometimes talking to Calli, sometimes to congregation)

I came from a long line of shepherds, so, my career path was chosen before I was born. And I let everybody know how I felt about that. I was a miserable, selfish, grumpy—overlooked—person.

Shepherds weren’t very popular back then, I guess because you smell like what you hang out with, right? So the further away we were from “decent” people, the better. Suited me just fine. My problem was: I knew a few Psalms, where David—who was a shepherd like me—David talked about the love God has for us. I knew God loved David, but me? If God loved me, why did He put me in a job I hated?

So that was my life, until that night. It started out like every other night. I was nodding off, the sheep had finally settled down, and even with my eyes closed, the light that came from the sky all of a sudden was like looking at the sun. I thought we were under attack! The other shepherds were just as scared as I was—but the sheep—the sheep never moved. Not one of them woke up. And they’re the most skittish animals on the planet!

Then I heard the voice! I felt it, too, in my bones. “Don’t be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born who is Christ, the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”
(Luke 2:11-12)

(music begins for “Jesu, Joy!”)

Shepherd: *(over intro)* That second, I knew—we all knew: we had not been overlooked at all! God had chosen us for this!

Song: “Jesu, Joy! *(lights up on choir)*

SCENE SIX

(music begins for “Lord of Glory”)

Shepherd: *(over intro)* When I looked in His eyes, I adored Him. Just like that. I loved everything about Him. And I knew God loved me. He had planned this for me. I was chosen to adore Him.

Song: “Lord of Glory”

(music begins for “Sing Joy to the World”)

Shepherd: *(over intro)* After we saw Jesus, we didn’t walk. We RAN. We woke up the town! We told our families! We told strangers! We told everyone we saw about Him. We knew this was the best news anybody would ever hear!

Song: “Sing Joy to the World”

(choir cheers and claps at end of song)

Shepherd: I watched that little guy grow up. I watched Him become the good Shepherd, who gives His life for His sheep. Then, when He gave His life on that cross, I watched Him become the Lamb of God—the beautiful, holy, worthy Lamb of God. I was chosen to adore Him—and so were you. *(Shepherd exits)*

Song: “Worthy Is the Lamb”

(Banners processing here can be worshipful; lighting or processing a cross in also fits with the song. House lights should dim if possible and use zone lighting for the choir.)

SCENE SEVEN

(lights down on choir; lights up on stage)

(Calli is sitting in the arm chair. Gloria enters opposite stage, bringing an adult and a child with her—Calli, as a little girl, and her mother. The child is scared and upset. The Mom guides her to her place beside her. The Mom is holding two candles. If necessary, Gloria can be holding a long-necked lighter, unless you use electric candles.)

(Calli, still sitting in the arm chair, looks over at Gloria and the others, then stands, pointing.)

Calli: Mom? Wait! How are you here? And who is . . . ?

Gloria: That's you. A long time ago.

Calli: Me? But how?

Gloria: Let's just say you're watching a memory playing back, like a video. I thought it would do you good.

(Little Calli's Mom sits down in the red chair. Gloria is slightly behind and to one side; Little Calli is next to her Mom on the other side.)

Mom: Calli, look at mommy, sweetheart. Tell me what happened at school today.

Little Calli: A girl pushed me down at recess and pulled my hair. Why are people so mean to each other?

Mom: Because there's no light in their souls. When you asked Jesus to be your Savior, His light came to live with you forever.

Little Calli: Because Jesus is the Light of the world, right?

Mom: Yes. But so many people live in the dark because they don't have Jesus. It's very easy for those people to be hateful or mean.

Little Calli: That's sad, mommy. I don't like the dark.

Mom: There is something we can do to help them.

Little Calli: There is? I want to help the girl at school.

Mom: *(handing Little Calli a candle)* Here. Hold this candle. Now you have one and I have one.

(If needed, Gloria hands Mom the lighter here. Mom lights her own candle as she speaks.)

Mom: *(continuing)* If you have no light, and I have the light of Jesus, what can I do with this light?

Little Calli: You can share it with me.

(music begins for “Light of Hope”)

Mom: *(over intro)* That’s right. I can show you and tell you about Jesus. Now, what can you do?

Little Calli: I can share His light with someone else.

Mom: Just one person can make a big difference, Calli. Always remember that.

(lights up on choir)

Song: “Light of Hope”

(As detailed in the music, Mom can light Little Calli’s candle at m. 14 in the song and continue as noted, to have a candle lighting moment.)

(At end of song, Mom and Little Calli blow out their candles, hug, and exit.)

(lights fade on choir; remain up on stage)

SCENE EIGHT

Calli: I'd forgotten about that, but you know, I went back to school and tried to be a friend to that girl. It took a long time, and it was hard, but we finally did become friends, and I was able to tell her about Jesus.

Gloria: And since then, she has gone on to tell many others about Jesus, because you shared that light with her. No one said it was going to be easy, Calli, but that's what life is all about. That's what Christmas is all about. If you miss the chance to tell someone about Jesus you will have missed the heart of Christmas.

(Calli turns away from Gloria, pondering all this.)

(continuing) You don't need to give a three-point sermon; just share His love. Tell them the story of that baby. Tell them what He's done for you. That's all. The Lord can take it from there. Now, there's one more friend I want you to hear tonight . . .

(Mary enters dressed in biblical costume.)

...someone who was there from the very beginning.

Mary: Hi, Calli. I'm Mary.

Calli: Mary! As in Mary, the mother of Jesus?

Mary: *(nodding)* The same.

Calli: Grandma, you've got friends in really high places!

Gloria: You don't know the half of it, sweetie!

Mary: There's so much I could share with you, but for tonight, I need to tell you only this: What blessed me most before Jesus was born was the angel's words, "You will give birth to a son and you shall call him Jesus." It was that name, you see. *(Luke 1:31)*

In those days, names were very important, with great meaning. So when Joseph said the angel told him the same thing, I knew it was true. This baby would be the Messiah—our Savior. That's what the name "Jesus" means. *(Matthew 1:20)*

Later I remembered Isaiah's prophecy: "The virgin shall bring forth a son, and His name shall be called Immanuel, which means God with us." *(Isaiah 7:14)* God—He was with my son, and He is with us as He promised. Now and always.

Gloria: And that is truth—whether we feel it or not, whether we believe it or not. That name is all we need to know. Christmas gives us another chance to bless His name.

(music begins for “Worship His Name Medley”)

(lights up on choir)

Mary: *(over intro)* My soul magnifies the Lord and rejoices in His beautiful name.
(Luke 1:46-47)

Song: “Worship His Name Medley” *(A child can do the solo here as stated in the music; it may also be suitable for Mary to sing the solo.)*

(Beginning at chorus, m. 20, characters enter one by one: Shepherd, Mom and Little Calli. They all join with Gloria and Mary in singing and praising.)

(At m. 44, “Every knee shall bow,” all characters kneel and continue to worship.)

(At m. 72, end of song, all characters stand, raising hands high.)

(On the opposite side, Calli sits down, picking up Gloria’s Bible and begins looking through it, stopping to read her notes or a verse she underlined, then she nods off again.)

(Lights remain up on choir at end of song.)

SCENE NINE

Gloria: *(as Calli sleeps)* Don't miss Christmas, Calli. Remember, get the center right, and the rest will follow.

Shepherd: Jesus is born! We've been rescued! So don't walk, RUN to Him.

Mom: The world is full of darkness. But you can share the Light of the world.

Mary: And let your soul magnify Him, in spite of your burdens, for they are temporary. Draw strength from all His wonderful names. God is with us.

Gloria: Jesus—Immanuel. Have you heard what He's been telling you tonight? Because He has been speaking, through all of us. And I believe it's your turn to talk to Him now. Have a blessed Christmas, Calli... December 25th and all through the year.

(Characters all exit except Calli. After all characters have gone, Calli wakes up, looks around, realizes the Bible is in her lap.)

Calli: It was a dream, but still, I remember everything. Get the center right. *(bows her head)* Dear Father, Thank You for reminding me to keep Jesus at the center—every day. Help me see past trees and lights to Your Son, the first gift of Christmas. You came to give us life by giving up Your own. Nothing is more important than You. Help me keep You always in the center of my life, for You are Lord of all. Amen.

(music begins for "Lord of All")

Calli: *(over intro) (standing up)* Ken? Evelyn and Trey! Come down here, please! There's something important I have to tell you!

Song: "Lord of All"

(Ken, Evelyn and Trey enter. They gather around Calli as she "tells" them about her experience, holding up the planner, then Gloria's Bible, turning to John 1 and pointing to the Scripture Gloria talked about. She sits down in the chair, Ken stands to one side as Trey and Evelyn sit on the floor.)

(At m. 58, of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," Gloria, the Shepherd, Mom, Little Calli, and Mary enter. All cast members stand and sing remainder of song.)

Notes:

1. Staging this drama should not be difficult, and the set can be put together with items from church members or from your own facility.
2. Lighting depends on your church equipment. A few suggestions are listed in the script, but it is suggested that you meet with your technical operators and drama director to discuss and notate all light changes. This will keep everyone on the same page.
3. Characters singing solos are stronger dramatically; however, your preference may be to use soloists who are not drama cast. Either option works.