



SHEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

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Running Time: 41:00

(A large stable is center stage with closed doors. A small group of rather frantic Bethlehem citizens is gathered in front of the stable. Maxine, the owner of the stable, tries to calm them.)

(music begins to “A Little More Peace”)

SONG: “A LITTLE MORE PEACE”

verse 1

Remember when our Bethlehem was a quiet town
But ever since this census was handed down
Each day brings a bigger crowd
So we need ...

chorus

A little more quiet please
Just to set our minds at ease
We can hardly hear ourselves thinking
Good luck if you'd rather be sleeping
We're prayin' for peace, oh
We're beggin' for peace, oh
Would somebody please bring us a little more peace
We gotta have a little more peace

verse 2

You won't believe the busy scene lighting up our town
New business but no stillness, just a wall of sound
It's enough to wear us down
So we need ...

chorus

A little more quiet please
Just to set our minds at ease
We can hardly hear ourselves thinking
Good luck if you'd rather be sleeping
We're prayin' for peace, oh
We're beggin' for peace, oh



Would somebody please bring us a little more peace
We gotta have a little more peace

(Music continues as underscore. Maxine jumps on a crate by the stable to address the unruly crowd. Her by-the-book assistant, Riley, carries a clipboard and is perpetually one step behind her.)

Dialog (begins at meas. 69)

MAXINE: *(shouting)* **Listen up, everybody! My name is Maxine, and my Bethlehem stable is full!**

RILEY: **But the camels need water! The goats need a bath! The cattle are lowing! The chickens are squawkin'!**

MAXINE: *(shouting again above the chaos)* **And I tell you again—there is no room in the stable tonight! Now please, give Bethlehem some peace!**

bridge

If the chaos was not enough
If the people were all we had to discuss
But oh, all these animals
Whoa, every stable's full
As if Noah's big boat delivered this overnight
Oh, we stack them wall to wall
And whoa, the aroma from the stalls
It's not just them it's also what they leave behind
We seem to find by surprise
Shh, listen ...

chorus

A little more quiet please
Just to set our minds at ease
We can hardly hear ourselves thinking
Good luck if you'd rather be sleeping
We're prayin' for peace, oh
We're beggin' for peace, oh
Would somebody please bring us a little more peace
We gotta have a little more
Peace and quiet galore
Silence this uproar
We gotta have a little more peace



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SCENE 1

(Maxine mounts her crate once again to address the crowd.)

MAXINE: **Good people of Bethlehem! I know many of you have traversed afar. You're weary. Your animals are weary. I am weary. But for the final time—there is** *(emphasizing each word)* **no ... room ... in ... the ... stable! My helpful helper, Riley, will give you the updated report. Riley?**

RILEY: *(checking his clipboard, quickly flipping pages)* **You bet, boss. (calling out) Breaking news from our zoo; dateline—The Wool Street Journal!** *(loud, rather obnoxious laughing—no one else laughs, they just look at him; he stops abruptly)* **Sorry. Sometimes I crack myself up. (clears throat) We just received ... four barking dogs, three fat hogs, two cooing doves ... and a donkey with a very short temper.**

 SoundFX: “Angry Donkey Bray”

(Two stable hands—Nick and his son—are literally “kicked” through the doors of the stable as they yell, followed by a burst of hay. Nick’s son stands and slams the doors shut, latching them, as Nick bellows.)

NICK: **That’s it! We quit!**

MAXINE: **But Nick, you and your son are my last two shepherds! And you have hill duty tonight! You can’t quit!**

NICK: **Watch us. (turns, rubbing his backside, and begins to exit) Now you won’t have Nick ... or Nick’s son ... to kick around anymore.**

(They both exit, limping as they go.)

MAXINE: *(throwing up her hands)* **Now what am I supposed to do? The only way the Bethlehem Stable will survive is if we ...**



VIVIAN: *(sweeping in, finishing the sentence)* ... **hire more assistants, and that is precisely my plan! Greetings, everyone!** *(handing out business cards)* **Vivian Swan—permanent CEO of the Temporary Swan Employment Agency. Our motto is: “We put the ‘I’ back into ‘hire!’”**

MAXINE: *(looking at a card)* **The ‘I’?**

VIVIAN: **Yes, I do the hiring, you do the work. I was called to Bethlehem to handle an emergency.**

MAXINE: **We sure have one. With all the travelers coming for the census, this town is overcrowded and understaffed.**

(At this moment, from around the stable, three rather road-weary travelers appear; they carry traveling bundles; they mingle with the crowd, but are listening intently.)

VIVIAN: **And that’s exactly what I’ve been doing today—filling temporary jobs: bellhops at the inn, waitresses at the Falafel House, used-dromedary salesmen at the Camel Lot. And now there is only one job left.** *(Clears throat, puts on glasses that hang from a chain around her neck. She unfolds and peers closely at a paper in her hand.)* **Allow me to read the notice: “Wanted. One certain poor shepherd ...”**

MAXINE: *(breaking in)* ... **make that “three shepherds.” We just had two unexpected vacancies open up.**

VIVIAN: **Alright. “Wanted. Three shepherds ... to keep watch over some sheep by night. Location: the hills above Bethlehem. Hazard pay included.”**

RILEY: **Hazard pay?!**

MAXINE: **Conditions can be rough. That’s probably why no one has applied.**

VIVIAN: **Indeed. I had to dispatch my administrative assistant, Mackenzie, to the hills. She’s watching the sheep until the temps arrive.**

RILEY: **How are things up there?**

VIVIAN: **Deteriorating quickly. Her last message had only two words: “Fare Well.”**



MAXINE: **We'd better find some shepherds fast! I can't take this anymore! All the mooing, the grunting, the squawking ...**

VIVIAN: **Yes, those poor animals.**

MAXINE: **Animals? I'm talking about me!**

VIVIAN: **Well if I can't fill the jobs in Bethlehem, I'll just have to visit the next town over. *(holding up the papers, calling out to everyone)* Last call: Three Temp Shepherds! Going once, going twice ...**

HEYWOOD: *(stepping forward, with the small group)* **SOLD!! Uh, I mean ... we'll take the jobs! All of them!**

MAXINE: **Oh good!**

VIVAN: **Oh no!**

MAXINE: *(stepping forward to shake Heywood's hand)* **And who are you?**

HEYWOOD: **We're the Woolton family. I'm Heywood, and this is my brother, Wolfgang ...**

WOLFGANG: *(a bit hesitant and shy, softly)* **Howdy.**

HEYWOOD: *(to Wolfgang, encouraging him)* **Speak up!**

WOLFGANG: *(abruptly loud)* **HOWDY!**

HEYWOOD: **Wolfgang's a bit shy. And this is my sister, Gabby. She's not shy.**

GABBY: *(gushing, speaking quickly, very Southern-country, shaking everyone's hands)* **Well butter my bonnet and call me a biscuit! I am so tickled to meet y'all. If I was any happier, I'd be ... I'd be ... twins!**

HEYWOOD: **We just journeyed to the big city from the country. We're your new shepherds!**

VIVIAN: *(dismissing them outright)* **I'm sorry, Mr. Woolton, but the positions are no longer available.**

MAXINE: **They aren't? When did this happen?**



VIVIAN: **When *they* showed up. Listen, Maxine, I've known this family for a long time. In fact, you could say they're my oldest repeat clients—I keep getting them jobs, and they keep getting fired!**

HEYWOOD: **It isn't our fault. We just haven't found the right match for our talents!**

MAXINE: **And what exactly are your talents?**

HEYWOOD: **We're completely unique—just like everybody else. Here's our resume. Wolfgang and I are real good with animals. And Gabby just wants to make the world a more attractive place.**

GABBY: **It's true. I can make a hog's pen purtier than a glob of butter meltin' on a stack of flapjacks. I was blessed with the decorating gene.**

HEYWOOD: **We know the perfect job is out there, just waitin' for us.**

(music begins to "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow")

We're tired of being here-today-gone-tomorrow, of always being on the move. We're ready for something that lasts—forever. And that somethin' may be right here in Bethlehem! Tonight!

SONG: "HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW"

chorus

Here today, gone tomorrow
How come the good jobs never last
We've had our fair share of sorrow
A lifetime of careers are in the past
Momma said we could achieve anything that we could dream
Now in Bethlehem we have a chance
For, here today, gone tomorrow
To finally be a memory at last

Dialog 1 (begins ms. 27)

MAXINE: **It says here on your resume that you spent a little time at a pet boutique outside of Jericho.**



GABBY: **Yeah, we had a good thing going ... shampooing, grooming—my essence expressed ... until Wolfgang got things all mixed up.**

WOLFGANG: **Well the shampoo bottle said it would help me look rich, silky, and dazzling!**

HEYWOOD: **And ...**

WOLFGANG: **And the treats would clean my teeth.**

HEYWOOD: **And ...**

GABBY: **And everything would've been fine if he would've stopped there.**

RILEY: **I guess they gave you a new *leash* on life! (laughs)**

chorus

Here today, gone tomorrow
How come the good jobs never last
We've had our fair share of sorrow
A lifetime of careers are in the past
Momma said we could achieve anything that we could dream
Now in Bethlehem we have a chance
For, here today, gone tomorrow
To finally be a memory at last

Dialog 2 (begins ms. 60)

MAXINE: **Tell me about the marine park in Joppa.**

WOLFGANG: **Oh yeah! Who knew we were naturals at training seals.**

GABBY: **I remember that cute little seal we taught to juggle. He really caught on fast!**

HEYWOOD: **I don't remember a seal that could juggle.**

WOLFGANG: **You've probably blocked it out.**

HEYWOOD: **Maybe. The last thing I remember is that everything started to spin, and when I woke up I smelled like flounder!**

GABBY: **He must've thought you looked like a flounder.**

WOLFGANG: **It was the best trick we taught him.**



RILEY: **I guess for you that really *sealed* the deal!** (*laughs*)

bridge

Will we ever fully know our gifting
Or understand our purpose as a fact
In the meantime we can do the heavy lifting
And trust our future isn't in the past

chorus tag

Momma said that one day we'd find our place in history
Never doubt a mother's guarantee
Yes, here today, gone tomorrow
May finally be a memory at last
Yes, here today, gone tomorrow
Leads us to our next supremely brilliant opportunity
And, may finally be a memory at last
Yeah

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SCENE 2

MAXINE: **That's quite a resume, my friends. But puppy shampoos and seal tricks don't exactly prepare you to shepherd a flock of sheep.**

HEYWOOD: **How hard can it be? They baa, they bleat, they eat, they sleep—then they wake up and do it all over again.**

WOLFGANG: **So what do *we* do?**

HEYWOOD: **We make sure they all stay together and do it at the same time.**

GABBY: **And keep their coats fluffed and curled.**

RILEY: **Maybe you can take them to the baa-baa shop.** (*Again, Riley laughs loudly at his own joke; and again, he's the only one and everyone else just looks at him. He clears his throat, stopping.*)
Uh, sorry.

VIVIAN: **What you've described, Mr. Woolton, is not what is listed on the job description.**



HEYWOOD: **Sure it is. We all have copies of the ad. It says: “Wanted: Certain Poor Shepherds.” Well, we’re most definitely *poor* ...**

WOLFGANG: **... and we’re *certain* we need jobs!**

MAXINE: **No, no. The duties of the shepherds we are looking for are very specific.**

VIVIAN: **I think you’d better read the rest of the want ad. We need to be sure you have the necessary qualifications.**

(The Wooltons look at the ad closely.)

MAXINE: **This ad was written by the shepherd you will be replacing. His name is Enoch. He’s the oldest and wisest shepherd in the hills.**

WOLFGANG: **Why isn’t he there now?**

MAXINE: **He had a ... mishap ... with one of the rams and broke his leg. He’s laid up for the rest of the week. But he made me promise to only hire someone with a shepherd’s heart. He’s listed four requirements.**

WOLFGANG: **Let’s see what it says. *(reading)* Item One: “A shepherd always guides his sheep—to higher ground and greener grass.”**

GABBY: ***(reading)* Item Two: “A shepherd always protects his sheep—from stormy nights and those that wish them harm.”**

HEYWOOD: ***(reading)* Item Three: “A shepherd always loves his God—for as it is written: ‘God tends His flock like a shepherd, and carries the lambs close to his heart.’ Thus says Isaiah.” *(looking up)* So who is this Isaiah guy? Is he on a shepherd licensing board somewhere?**

MAXINE: ***(laughing)* Not exactly. Isaiah was a prophet, which means he talked about what was going to happen in the future. There are many prophets who still talk to us today because their words were written down. One of the prophets even talks about this town.**

WOLFGANG: **You mean Bethlehem? What does it say?**



MAXINE: **Just read the fourth job requirement and you'll find out.**

WOLFGANG: **Okay. (reading) Item Four: "You will become a Bethlehem shepherd, and a Bethlehem shepherd is always praying and watching for the coming Messiah—which means, 'God's Chosen One.' The prophet Micah said: 'But you, Bethlehem, out of you will come a ruler over Israel ... He will shepherd His flock ... and He will be their peace.'" (looking up, quietly) Wow.**

(music begins to "Here in Bethlehem")

MAXINE: **Keep reading. Enoch wrote down everything the prophets said about the Messiah. He read them so often, he said they were "written on his heart."**

(During the song, the Woolton family continues to read the papers in their hands.)

SONG: "HERE IN BETHLEHEM"

verse 1

So it is written that here in Bethlehem
Messiah will be born
Descendent of David, King of Kings
Lord of Lords
Could in these dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light?
Could what they say be right?
So it is written, here in Bethlehem

verse 2

So it is written the Child will be called
Emmanuel
Born of a virgin, born to redeem
Ruler of Israel
No ear may hear His coming, but is what we read the truth?
Could someday we see proof?
So it is written, here in Bethlehem

bridge

This Child will be a Lamb without blemish
This Child will shepherd Israel
This Child will be the Sacrificial Lamb
This Child born in Bethlehem
Here in Bethlehem



tag

O little town of Bethlehem, what treasure do you hold?
If only we could know
So it is written, here in Bethlehem
So it is written, here in Bethlehem
Here in Bethlehem

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SCENE 3

WOLFGANG: *(genuinely moved)* **Sacrificial Lamb. Everlasting Light. Messiah.** *(pause, sighs)* **There's a lot to this shepherding thing, isn't there. I don't think I'm old enough to do this job.**

MAXINE: **Enoch felt the same way when he started out. But he said he liked to remember that King David was also a young shepherd. He once wrote that the Lord was his shepherd.**

WOLFGANG: **Thanks, Maxine. That helps a lot.**

VIVIAN: *(walking up to Heywood)* **So, Mr. Woolton, do you and your underachieving family think you're qualified for this job?**

HEYWOOD: **Of course!**

WOLFGANG: **Heywood, I'm not sure we're ready for this. Maybe there's a manual we could read—like *Shepherding for Dummies*.**

HEYWOOD: **We know everything we need to know. Miss Maxine,** *(shaking her hand)* **you've got yourself three new shepherds.**

MAXINE: **Good. You're hired! Riley will get your supplies and equipment.**

RILEY: **You bet, boss; staaaaaffs and raaaaations.** *(quick laugh, stops)* **Sorry.**

(Riley goes up to the stable to retrieve some knapsacks and shepherd crooks; one or two others from the crowd can help.)

GABBY: **Well I've packed my own equipment: a teasing comb and my 100% cashmere wrap.** *(pulling the wrap around her)* **A true lady is prepared for all of life's little emergencies.**



- MAXINE: **Here's a map, Heywood. We don't want you getting lost.**
(unfolding the parchment, indicating directions) **Now, you know the road that winds up the hill and disappears over the ridge?**
- HEYWOOD: **Of course.**
- MAXINE: *(quickly)* **Well don't follow that road—you'll end up in the Dead Sea. You'd better take the northern path. Turn right at the second olive tree and left at the third boulder. You can't miss it.**
- HEYWOOD: **Are you sure?**
- MAXINE: *(a hand on his shoulder)* **Sure I'm sure. You know, this could be the best job you've ever had.**
- HEYWOOD: *(almost to himself)* **I certainly hope so.**

(All of the equipment has been delivered and the family is geared up with knapsacks and classic shepherd head-cloths and crooks.)
- MAXINE: *(calling out to the intrepid group)* **Look, night's falling, so you'd best travel quickly.**
- RILEY: *(calling out also; he keeps laughing with each joke; he's the only one)* **Watch out for robbers. Don't get fleeced!** *(Riley laughs, everyone groans)* **Don't let 'em pull the wool over your eyes.** *(Riley laughs louder, louder groans)* **You're all just muttons for punishment!**
- EVERYONE: **Riley!**
- RILEY: **Sorry.**

(music begins to "What Do We Do with These Sheep?")
- MAXINE: **God speed your journey! Shalom.**

(Maxine, Riley, Vivian and the small group all exit, as the Wooltons begin their journey.)
- WOLFGANG: **Are you sure you know the way, Heywood?**
- GABBY: **Are you sure we'll know what to do when we get there?**
- HEYWOOD: **Sure I'm sure. C'mon! This may be the best job we've ever had!**



SONG: "WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE SHEEP?"

verse 1

On a cold winter's night, a night so deep
We head to the hills to watch the flocks of sheep
This may be the best job we've ever had
Above our deep and dreamless sleep we
Have the silent stars to keep us company
This may be the best job we've ever had

channel

So the most important question we can propose
To our fellow Bethlehem shepherds filled with hope, is

chorus

What do we do with these sheep
Watch 'em roam around?
It's gonna get a little boring
At our campground
What do we do with these sheep
What's our specific role?
If one is led astray
Lost from the fold
We're gonna need some help, please
What do we do with these sheep

*(The family comes up to a signpost; dialogue over music
turnaround.)*

Dialog (begins meas. 42)

GABBY: **Turn right here!**

HEYWOOD: **No, this way! I see the top of the hill!**

(The family continues their journey.)

verse 2

What is worse than sheep without a shepherd
What if we lose one and they're gone forever
Still may be the best job we've ever had
We've heard that some may lay down their life
For sheep? That's absurd! Aren't they just wildlife?
Still may be the best job we've ever had



channel

So the most important question we have to ask
That's in our best interest to answer fast, is

chorus

What do we do with these sheep
Watch 'em roam around?
It's gonna get a little boring
At our campground
What do we do with these sheep
What's our specific role?
If one is led astray
Lost from the fold
We're gonna need some help, please
What do we do with these sheep

bridge

This might take some getting used to
But it might be our purpose at last
A life outdoors with some friends of yours
Sounds pretty good, not bad
Or, sounds pretty goood, not baaaad

chorus

What do we do with these sheep
Watch 'em roam around?
It's gonna get a little boring
At our campground
What do we do with these sheep
What's our specific role?
If one is led astray
Lost from the fold
What do we do with these
Wandering, sauntering, stumbling sheep

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SCENE 4

(The Wooltons have arrived and stand in the middle of the hill set, looking about. There is a somewhat mysterious "tent" made with a large woolen blanket center stage. We can hear whimpering coming from underneath it. Initially, The Wooltons do not seem to notice.)



HEYWOOD: **We've arrived! Finally.**

WOLFGANG: **Look at all those stars. What a perfect night.**

GABBY: **What a cold night. The first thing we need to do is build a fire.**

HEYWOOD: **No, the first thing we need to do is gather the sheep.**

(A louder, discernable whimper comes from under the blanket.)

WOLFGANG: **Listen! What was that?!**

(The whimper now becomes more of a wail.)

WOLFGANG: **It's coming from underneath that blanket.**

HEYWOOD: **Then we have to uncover it. C'mon on, Wolfgang—one, two, three ...**

(Heywood and Wolfgang whip off the blanket...revealing a crazed Mackenzie—disheveled, hair frizzed to the max. First she screams, then the family screams.)

MACKENZIE: **AHHHHHHHH!**

HEYWOOD, GABBY & WOLFGANG: **AHHHHHHHH!**

WOLFGANG: **Look. It's ... a girl!**

GABBY: **No, it's an administrative assistant.**

(Mackenzie continues to moan and rock side to side, still crazed.)

HEYWOOD: **It must be Mackenzie. Vivian said she'd been watching the sheep until we arrived. Looks like we got here just in time.**

WOLFGANG: **She does seem a bit ... anxious.**

HEYWOOD: **Get some water from your pack, Wolfgang. We'll bring her around.**

(Wolfgang goes to unpack some supplies.)



GABBY: *(overly sweet and accommodating)* **No need for that. What's needed here is a little woman heart-to-heart.** *(turns directly to Mackenzie and—in a wildly abrupt shift—yells in her face)*
MACKENZIE, YOU SNAP OUT OF IT, GIRLFRIEND!
You're actin' crazier than a sprayed junebug.

(Mackenzie does begin to come around, turning and grabbing Gabby by her wrap.)

MACKENZIE: **Oh ... you've come ... at last you've come ... I'm rescued ... I can return to civilization with people and take out and ... no sheep.** *(quickly turning to her make-shift tent)* **I need to pack up.** *(to Gabby)* **Will you help me ... uh, shepherd-person?**

GABBY: **My name's Gabby, and I think I know where I can help. Gracious, girl, it looks like your hair caught fire and somebody put it out with a brick. Now you leave everything to me and my teaser comb.**

MACKENZIE: **Oh thank you. Ouch ... eek ... ooo ...**

(And Gabby goes to work on her hair—with combs and sprays and bows. Mackenzie continues to pack, occasionally calling out an "Ouch.")

WOLFGANG: *(coming forward)* **I'll help you pack, Miss Mackenzie.** *(they begin to pack)* **How long have you been here?**

MACKENZIE: **An eternity.** *(getting frantic again)* **I'm not cut out for this life of extreme survival. I mean, I have an MBA.**

HEYWOOD: **Mackenzie, where are the sheep?**

MACKENZIE: *(very preoccupied, continuing to pack)* **Hard to say. I think I misplaced them sometime yesterday.**

HEYWOOD: **Oh no! Gabby, we need to go round them up right away.**

GABBY: *(standing, holding up a mirror)* **Well my beautifyin' job is done. Looky here in this mirror, Miss Mackenzie!** *(Mackenzie looks with a high-pitched squeal; her hair is ratted out more than before—but now has a number of outlandish bows in it.)* **I know. Taffeta bows are my signature trademark.**

HEYWOOD: **Goodbye. We'll be back as soon as we can.**



(Heywood and Gabby exit.)

MACKENZIE: *(calling out after them)* **It was nice meeting you ... *(pleasantly, to herself)* ... whoever you are.**

WOLFGANG: **That's my older brother, Heywood. He tends to take charge of things.**

MACKENZIE: **He must have been shepherding a long time.**

WOLFGANG: **Oh no. This is his first job as a shepherd. It's the first time for all of us.**

MACKENZIE: **I'm surprised. You all seem to know a lot about being shepherds.**

WOLFGANG: **Not really, but we're learning. A really wise shepherd named Enoch wrote down a lot of things we need to remember.**

MACKENZIE: **Like what?**

WOLFGANG: **Well, like Bethlehem shepherds need to always pray and watch for the coming Messiah. Messiah means "God's Chosen One."**

MACKENZIE: *(genuinely interested)* **Really? Does Enoch say when this Messiah will come?**

WOLFGANG: **No, it's probably going to be a big surprise. But we need to keep watching. That's why I'm glad we're on top of this hill. We've got a great view up here.**

MACKENZIE: **You know, I think you're going to make a very good shepherd one day, Wolfgang. Well thanks for helping me pack. And tell Gabby thanks for the hair 911. And I really hope Heywood finds the sheep.**

WOLFGANG: **Goodbye, Mackenzie.** *(waving, as she exits)*

MACKENZIE: *(in the distance)* **Goodbye ...**

WOLFGANG: *(calling after her)* **Turn right at the second olive tree and left at the third boulder.**

 SoundFX: "Sheep"



(Gabby, Heywood run in from the opposite direction, followed by Dakota and Piper, two shepherds. The sound effect of sheep bleating continues up to the start of the next song.)

GABBY: **Wolfgang!! We have a crisis in the making!**

WOLFGANG: **What do you mean? I can see you found the sheep!**

HEYWOOD: **But when we counted them, one was missing! It must have wandered off.**

GABBY: **This is Piper and Dakota, two shepherds from the next hill. They've been helping us look.**

PIPER: *(simple and direct)* **Can't find it.**

DAKOTA: *(ditto)* **Nope. It's gone.**

GABBY: *(wailing)* **We're gonna be fired again!**

HEYWOOD: **It's not about being fired. It's about the sheep. That's what's important.**

PIPER: *(pointing)* **I think I see it. There's a baby lamb over there by itself.**

HEYWOOD: **It may be hurt. I'll go get it; don't worry.**

(Heywood exits to get the lamb. Then suddenly ...)

(music to "How Great Our Joy" begins)

(Everyone reacts with amazement [and a little fear] as they scan the skies.)

PIPER: **Did you hear that?!**

DAKOTA: **Did you see that?!**

PIPER: **It's coming from the sky!**

DAKOTA: **It's all around us!**

GABBY: **Oh, Wolfgang, I'm frightened!**



WOLFGANG: **Don't be scared, Gabby! I feel something wonderful is about to happen!**

(As Gabriel speaks, they all look front and skyward, as if seeing the angel in front of them. Gabriel's voice is on the right channel of the Split-Track Accompaniment CD; Gabriel can also be performed live.)

GABRIEL: **Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy! Today in the city of David a Savior has been born; He is Christ the Lord! This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.**

SONG: "HOW GREAT OUR JOY"

(Midway through the song, Heywood runs back on stage, the wrapped lamb in his arms. He joins everyone is listening and reacting to the angels.)

verse 1

While by the sheep we watched at night—a silent night
Glad tidings brought an angel bright—bright shining
Out of nowhere the skies were glowing, exploding
The voices of angels growing

chorus

Today in the city of David
A Savior is born
How great our joy
Peace has come for us
In Christ our Lord
How great our joy
Joy, joy, joy, joy, our Savior is born
How great our joy
Joy, joy, joy, joy, in Christ our Lord
How great our joy

verse 2

There shall be born, so he did say—born to save
In Bethlehem a Child today—of all days
Out of nowhere their words were don't fear, so clear
The song of the angels was so near

chorus

Today in the city of David
A Savior is born



How great our joy
Peace has come for us
In Christ our Lord
How great our joy
Joy, joy, joy, joy, our Savior is born
How great our joy
Joy, joy, joy, joy, in Christ our Lord
How great our joy

dialog

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

bridge

Gloria in excelsis deo!

chorus

Today in the city of David
A Savior is born
How great our joy
Peace has come for us
In Christ our Lord
How great our joy
Joy, joy, joy, joy, our Savior is born
How great our joy
Joy, joy, joy, joy, in Christ our Lord
How great our joy
How great our joy

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(Immediately after applause for the song, the “How Great Our Joy Reprise” begins.)

SONG: “HOW GREAT OUR JOY REPRISE”

(Dialog over intro)

WOLFGANG: We have to get back to Bethlehem!

GABBY: Oh Heywood! You found the lamb!

WOLFGANG: Did you hear the angels?



HEYWOOD: **Every word!**

GABBY: **We have to hurry!**

WOLFGANG: **I'm right behind you.**

DAKOTA: **We know a shortcut to Bethlehem!**

PIPER: **Follow us!**

WOLFGANG: **We'll meet you at the manger!**

(The traveling party moves across the stage as they travel back to the stable. They sing with the choir as they travel.)

chorus

Today in the city of David
A Savior is born
How great our joy
Peace has come for us
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SCENE 5

(The traveling group now stands in front of the stable. The stable doors are closed, as before. Maxine and Riley meet them, smiling.)

MAXINE: **Welcome back, my friends.**

WOLFGANG: **The stable looks different than before.**

MAXINE: **There's much that is different. Come inside ... and see.**



(Maxine and Riley open the doors of the stable, revealing the full nativity scene inside with the holy family around a manger. Vivian, Mackenzie, and several others stand in the background. The group approaches the manger with hushed awe. The following lines are spoken over the quiet underscore.)

 SoundFX: “Away in a Manger”

PIPER: *(gently)* **Look. It’s a baby ...**

DAKOTA: **... wrapped in cloths ... and lying in a manger.**

WOLFGANG: **Exactly as the angel said.**

GABBY: *(softly, sincere)* **Oh. “Glory to God.”**

WOLFGANG: *(thoughtfully, with new meaning)* **Yes. “Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

MAXINE: **We’re so happy you’re here.**

RILEY: **How did you find us?**

GABBY: **We received some very specific directions ...**

WOLFGANG: **... and knew exactly who we were looking for.**

RILEY: **And who was that?**

WOLFGANG: **The angel said that today a Savior has been born, in the city of David!**

(Enoch steps out of the small group; he uses a crutch, as his leg is in a cast.)

ENOCH: **Yes, the city of David. As the prophet Micah said, “For out of you, Bethlehem, will come a ruler over Israel. He will shepherd his flock ... and He will be their peace.”** *(to Wolfgang)* **I’m pleased to meet you, Wolfgang. I’ve heard so much about you and your family.**

MAXINE: **This is Enoch—the shepherd you were replacing.**

WOLFGANG: **Of course. I should have recognized you.**



ENOCH: **Pretty easy to do. I'm the one with my foot in a cast.**

WOLFGANG: **This is Gabby and Heywood, my sister and brother.**

ENOCH: **Thank you all for shepherding my flock. I feel they were in good hands.**

GABBY: **We learned a lot about sheep ...**

WOLFGANG: **... and especially about being shepherds ... Bethlehem shepherds.**

ENOCH: *(smiling)* **And what did you learn?**

WOLFGANG: **We learned to watch ...**

GABBY: **... and pray ...**

HEYWOOD: *(stepping forward, the lamb in his arms)* **And we learned a shepherd always loves his God—for as it is written: “God tends His flock like a shepherd, and carries the lambs close to his heart.”**

(Maxine moves to stand by the holy family.)

MAXINE: **Everyone, I want you to meet the baby's mother. Her name is Mary, and this is her intended, Joseph. They traveled to Bethlehem for the census. Our stable was so full, but when it was time for the baby to be born ...**

RILEY: **... suddenly, there was more than enough room. And the animals were so quiet and content.**

MAXINE: **A little peace ... at last. That's what this baby has brought all of us.**

HEYWOOD: *(moving to the manger)* **Joseph, Mary. It is such an honor to meet you both. And what is the baby's name?**

JOSEPH: **His name is Jesus. This is the name the angel told us to give the child. It means: “He will save His people from their sins.”**

(Now everyone slowly kneels before the manger.)



HEYWOOD: *(smiling, puts down the lamb in front of the manger)* **I want to give Jesus this lamb. For He is the shepherd I will serve now.**

GABBY: *(giving Mary her cashmere wrap)* **And here is my wrap. The baby needs to stay warm.**

ENOCH: **Heywood, I hope you'll keep your shepherd's staff ... and return to the hills with Piper, Dakota and myself. For you, my son, truly have a shepherd's heart.**

MAXINE: **And Gabby and Wolfgang, I'd like you to stay in Bethlehem and work here at the stable. Now you all have a home.** *(the brother and sister hug each other)*

(music begins to "Lamb of God")

HEYWOOD: *(deeply moved)* **Thank you, Enoch. We've finally found something that will last ... forever.**

ENOCH: **Yes, it will last. Forever and ever.** *(proclaiming)* **And so, as it is written, by Isaiah, the prophet of God: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *(with special meaning)* Prince ... of Peace."**

SONG: "LAMB OF GOD"

chorus

Jesus, Lamb of God
Perfect sacrifice, born this holy night
God is here with us
Peace has come in Jesus
My Shepherd, Savior, Lord of all, oh Lamb of God

verse 1

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

bridge

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.



verse 2/chorus together

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

chorus/verse 2 together

Jesus, Lamb of God
Perfect sacrifice, born this holy night
God is here with us
Peace has come in Jesus
My Shepherd, Savior, Lord of all, oh Lamb of God

tag

My Shepherd, Savior, Lord of all, oh Lamb of God

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(“Lamb of God” music underscore continues)

(The nativity scene arrests and [if possible] dims slightly. Enoch and Heywood both move to the front of the stage and speak directly to the audience.)

ENOCH: **It would be many years later that I would come to understand who the baby in the manger really was. I watched as Jesus grew to be a man—the Good Shepherd calling people to come into the safety of His fold.**

(taking off his shepherd head-covering, handing it to Heywood)

Heywood eventually took over my flock, and became a follower of Jesus Christ ...

HEYWOOD: *(speaking overlaps with Enoch’s, then takes over) ... and became a follower of Jesus Christ.*

(putting on the shepherd head-covering, and taking Enoch’s staff)

I journeyed to Jerusalem, where Jesus was put to death on a cross, then rose again from the tomb. He was the Good Shepherd, but He was also the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Because He took our sin upon Himself



as He died, lost sheep like you and me can now have peace with God.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

(music begins to “Good News”)

SONG: “GOOD NEWS”

verse

God so loved the world He gave His only Son
If we believe in Him, He's our salvation
Born on a silent night in Bethlehem
The hope for all the world, Jesus
Repeat the sounding joy, Jesus
Repeat the sounding joy

chorus

Have you heard the good news
Christ is born for you
The Savior we've been waiting for to set us free
Go tell the good news
Christ is born for you
For all the world He's everlasting peace
Go tell the good news

scripture readers

Reader 1: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:14-15)

Reader 2: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28)

bridge

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
Let every heart prepare Him room



chorus

Have you heard the good news
Christ has come for you
The Savior we've been waiting for to set us free
Go tell the good news
Christ has come for you
For all the world He's everlasting peace

chorus

Have you heard the good news
Christ has come for you
The Savior we've been waiting for to set us free
Go tell the good news
Christ has come for you
For all the world He's everlasting peace
Go tell the good news
Go tell the good news
Go, tell the good news

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SONG: "SHEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE CURTAIN CALLS"

"Good News"

bridge

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
Let every heart prepare Him room

chorus

Have you heard the good news
Christ has come for you
The Savior we've been waiting for to set us free
Go tell the good news
Christ has come for you
For all the world He's everlasting peace

chorus

Have you heard the good news
Christ has come for you
The Savior we've been waiting for to set us free



Go tell the good news
Christ has come for you
For all the world He's everlasting peace
Go tell the good news
Go tell the good news
Go, tell the good news

“How Great Our Joy”

chorus

Today in the city of David
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