

# HERE COMES PETER WHO?

*by Ann W. Yeager*



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# Here Comes Peter Who?

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A children's musical for Easter

by Ann W. Yeager

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**JAMIE**

*A small child*

**MOTHER**

*Jamie's mother*

**ZEPHYR**

*A young angel*

**HARK**

*A young angel, but more experienced than Zephyr*

**MERRY**

*Another angel passing by*

**NOEL**

*Merry's companion*

**PETER**

*The disciple*

**ANDREW**

*The disciple and Peter's brother*

**JAMES**

*The disciple*

**JOHN**

*The disciple*

**HEAVENLY RESIDENTS**

*Extra cast members as desired*

## *PRODUCTION NOTES*

Although the parts of Jamie, Hark, and Zephyr are written in the feminine gender, they and the other two minor angel roles may be played by either sex. If a large group of children and/or youth is participating, any number of extras may be added in the scene with Peter and the disciples. The minor characters Merry and Noel may also appear as extras in Scene 4. The players may be of elementary school age or a mix of children, youth and/or adults, depending on available cast members.

Scenery and properties may be simple or more elaborate as circumstances permit. For Scenes 1 and 3, a cot, table and chair may be used. For Scene 2, a box decorated with clouds for Zephyr to sit on will suggest a heavenly setting. For Scene 4, a simple backdrop or cardboard cutout suggesting a body of water may be used, along with a plain bench. For minimal interruption, the scenes may be played on a divided stage area, using one half for each setting and then replacing Zephyr's box with the "water" and bench for Scene 4. An alternate solution is to divide the stage for Scenes 1-3, then clear everything and set it for Scene 4. Carols may be played between scenes, using either a keyboard instrument or recordings.

Costumes also may be simple. The angels may be dressed in traditional costumes, or white street clothes may be used. Jamie will need pajamas or a nightgown for Scenes 3 and 4. Peter and the disciples should be dressed in robes or similar clothing to suggest Hebrew apparel. "Extras" may be costumed at the director's discretion.

During the song "Fishing for Men," which is to be spoken as a rap-style piece, the rhythm may be kept by other children/youth using rhythm instruments or by a simple "stomp-stomp-clap" pattern. The introduction to this piece may be repeated as many times as necessary to set the rhythm.

*Here Comes Peter Who?* is designed to deliver the message of God's love with humor and should be performed accordingly.

***PROPS AND SET***

**Scene 1**

Cot with bedspread and pillow  
Small table  
Chair  
Paper and crayons

**Scene 2**

Small box decorated with clouds

**Scene 3**

Same as Scene 1

**Scene 4**

Plain bench with sitting room for two  
Fishing nets  
Hand props as desired for extras (baskets, oars,  
pottery jars, etc.)

**SONGS**

*(In order of appearance)*

1. **“All These Prayers”** — Hark, All
2. **“I Can’t See You”** Jamie
3. **“Fishing for Men”** — Peter
4. **“God Loves Me”** — Jamie, All
5. **“I’m Leavin’ It Up to Him”** — Jamie, All
6. **Reprise: “I’m Leavin’ It Up to Him”** — All

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Scene 1

*An average house somewhere in America*

*(It is the week after Easter. JAMIE is sitting in her bedroom at a table with paper and crayons. Her MOTHER calls from Off-stage.)*

MOTHER: Jamie? Are you in there?

JAMIE: Yes, Mom. I'm here.

MOTHER: *(Coming in)* It was so quiet, I wasn't sure. What are you doing?

JAMIE: Nothing.

MOTHER: I see you have your crayons. Are you going to draw another picture for me?

JAMIE: I thought about it, but I guess I just don't feel like drawing.

MOTHER: You look a little sad. Would you like to tell me about it?

JAMIE: Well, Easter is over, and God didn't answer my prayer, and now I have to wait another whole year.

MOTHER: What prayer was that?

JAMIE: I just wanted to meet Peter, and I asked God every night, but Peter didn't come, and it'll be a whole year 'til Easter comes again.

MOTHER: Peter? Peter who?

JAMIE: Peter Cottontail.

MOTHER: *(Smiling)* Oh ... that Peter. You know, Jamie, sometimes we want things that just can't happen. I know you're disappointed, but I'm sure you'll feel better in a few days. Why don't you go play with your friends and try to cheer up?

JAMIE: *(Gets up.)* OK. I guess there's always next year. *(JAMIE and MOTHER exit.)*

**Scene 2**

*A street in heaven*

(*ZEPHYR the angel is sitting alone on a cloud, looking down and out. Another angel, HARK, approaches.*)

**HARK:** Hey, Zephyr. You look awful. What's up?

**ZEPHYR:** Oh, hi, Hark. I guess I'm just tired.

**HARK:** How come?

**ZEPHYR:** I was on Prayer Patrol the past few weeks.

**HARK:** During Holy Week, too? No wonder you're tired.

**ZEPHYR:** Yeah. I've never heard so many prayers before, and trying to sort them all out and forward them up to the Throne was almost impossible.

**HARK:** I don't know why so many people wait until Holy Week to catch up on their prayers, and most of them are asking for the same thing — forgiveness.

**ZEPHYR:** I guess thinking about Good Friday and God's Son dying for them makes people remember all the bad things they've done. Of course, there were lots of regular daily prayers, too.

**HARK:** I've been on Prayer Patrol before, and some people ask for the strangest things! Can you imagine what a mess there would be if God gave them everything they asked for?

**SONG:** "All These Prayers"

**HARK:** (*Sings as NOEL, MERRY and ZEPHYR enter during first verse.*)

All these prayers come from the earth,

And more are on the way.

I don't know how God does it;

He listens every day!

Some people send up thanks and praise,

Some pray for their families.

But lots of them sound just the same:

"Give me, give me, give me!"

- 1           Ponies in apartments and dollar bills on trees;  
 2           I don't understand the human mind when I hear  
 3           prayers like these.  
 4           God must get discouraged with people down below,  
 5           When they want more and more and more  
 6           And he must tell them, "No."
- 7   NOEL: (*Spoken*) You must be talking about the people on  
 8           earth.
- 9   MERRY: (*Spoken*) Some of them have so much, and they still  
 10           don't seem to be happy.
- 11   ZEPHYR: (*Spoken*) I know.  
 12           (*Singing*) You'd think that folks would trust in God  
 13           To give them what they need,  
 14           But they think happiness is found in things,  
 15           So, "More!" they plead.
- 16   HARK: I wish that they would stop and think  
 17           About how blessed they are,  
 18           And learn to share the gifts they have;  
 19           That love would sure go far!
- 20   ALL: (*Singing*) Ponies in apartments and dollar bills on trees.  
 21           We don't understand the human mind  
 22           When we hear prayers like these.  
 23           Yes, God must get discouraged with people down below,  
 24           When they want more and more and more,  
 25           And he must tell them, "No."  
 26           Sometimes they ask for foolish things,  
 27           And God must just say, "No!"  
 28
- 29   NOEL: (*Grabbing MERRY by the arm*) Come on! We've got to  
 30           go.
- 31   MERRY: (*To HARK and ZEPHYR*) See you later. (*They exit.*)
- 32   ZEPHYR: See you. (*To HARK*) You know, I had a strange one  
 33           during Holy Week. Some little girl named Jamie prayed  
 34           every night to meet Peter.
- 35   HARK: Peter? The big fisherman? Why would she want to

1           meet him?

2   **ZEPHYR:** Who knows? Maybe she likes boats.

3   **HARK:** Maybe she likes boats? What an answer! But you're  
4           right. That *is* a strange prayer! (*Pauses to think a moment.*)

5           Well, I've got to get going. I don't want to be late for  
6           choir.

7   **ZEPHYR:** Wait a minute, Hark. You know that little kid?  
8           Why can't we help her?

9   **HARK:** What do you mean? It's not our job to answer prayer.  
10          God does that.

11   **ZEPHYR:** I know, but he's so busy, I thought maybe we  
12          could help out.

13   **HARK:** And how would we do that? We can't very well pop  
14          down to earth and carry that little kid — by the way,  
15          what's her name?

16   **ZEPHYR:** Jamie.

17   **HARK:** We can't just carry Jamie up here. It would scare  
18          her, and besides, we'd probably get in lots of trouble for  
19          leaving without permission.

20   **ZEPHYR:** What if we went at night? If Jamie's asleep, she'd  
21          just think she's dreaming, wouldn't she?

22   **HARK:** Well ... I guess that might work, but I'm still not sure  
23          it's a good idea.

24   **ZEPHYR:** It's just one little kid, Hark, and you should have  
25          heard her prayers. She begged and begged, and think  
26          how happy it would make her.

27   **HARK:** (*Slowly*) I'm probably going to be sorry for this, but  
28          OK. When do you want to do it?

29   **ZEPHYR:** How about tomorrow night on earth?

30   **HARK:** All right. I'll meet you by the evening star, and we'll  
31          go find Jamie.

32   **ZEPHYR:** Thanks, Hark. Don't worry. Everything will be  
33          fine!

34   **HARK:** I wish I could be sure of that. See you later. (*They both*  
35          *exit.*)

## Scene 3

*Jamie's bedroom*

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*(JAMIE and her MOTHER are kneeling by the bed, just finishing bedtime prayers.)*

**JAMIE:** God bless Mom and Dad and Grandma and Grandpa and all my friends. Amen.

**MOTHER:** Amen. Now pop into bed. *(JAMIE gets into bed and MOTHER pulls up the covers. She hugs her.)* Goodnight, Jamie.

**JAMIE:** Goodnight. *(MOTHER exits. JAMIE sits up and looks toward the ceiling.)* God, can you hear me? I wish I could talk to you in person and know for sure.

**SONG:** "I Can't See You"

**JAMIE:** *(Singing)* Every night at bedtime, I pray the same little prayer,  
And I can't help but wonder if you are really there.  
How can you hear so many prayers from boys and girls like me?  
There must be millions all the time from children everywhere.

I can't see you. Do you see me?  
I can't hear you. Where can you be?  
Just where is heav'n, and are you there?  
I can't see you; I can't hear you,  
But in my heart I know you see and hear me and you care.

**JAMIE:** *(Speaking)* Goodnight, God. *(She lies down and closes her eyes. A few seconds later, HARK and ZEPHYR enter.)*

**ZEPHYR:** *(Softly)* Do you think she's asleep?

**HARK:** I think so. Be careful how you wake her up. We don't want to scare her.



1 JAMIE: That's not Peter!

2 ZEPHYR: Of course it is.

3 JAMIE: (*Getting upset*) You're just trying to trick me. I want  
4 to go home! (*PETER gets up and walks over to them.*)

5 PETER: What's the trouble, young lady? Hark, Zephyr, what  
6 are you doing here?

7 ZEPHYR: This is Jamie, and she's been praying to meet  
8 Peter, so we thought we'd answer her prayer, and here  
9 we are.

10 JAMIE: (*To PETER*) *You are not Peter!*

11 PETER: Actually my name *is* Peter, although some people  
12 used to call me Simon. Now who is the Peter you  
13 wanted to meet?

14 JAMIE: Peter Cottontail! Everyone knows he brings colored  
15 eggs to boys and girls on Easter. I wanted to meet him  
16 so maybe I could help paint the eggs and give them out.

17 HARK: Peter Cottontail? You mean ... Peter is a rabbit?  
18 (*Wide-eyed, she looks at ZEPHYR.*) What have you gotten us  
19 into?

20 ZEPHYR: I didn't know. Honest.

21 PETER: (*Begins to laugh.*) Well, it looks like we have a case of  
22 mistaken identity. Jamie, why don't you come sit down  
23 with me (*Gestures toward bench*) and tell me about this  
24 Peter you're so anxious to meet. (*He turns toward the*  
25 *ANGELS.*) Zephyr, Hark, I think you have some  
26 explaining to do. I believe Splendorius is waiting for  
27 you.

28 ZEPHYR: Splendorius? Oh no, we're really in trouble now.  
29 I've never been to see him before. That's almost at the  
30 top of heaven!

31 HARK: I've been there before, but I don't think I'm going to  
32 like this visit as well as the last one. Come on, Zephyr, I  
33 guess we have to face the music. (*She leads a reluctant*  
34 *ZEPHYR Off-stage. PETER and JAMIE walk over to the bench*  
35 *and sit down.*)

1     **PETER:** Now tell me about this Peter ... Cottontail, I think  
2             you said. What does a rabbit have to do with Easter? Or  
3             with eggs, for that matter?

4     **JAMIE:** Well, it's sort of like Santa Claus, but Peter  
5             Cottontail comes at Easter, and he leaves candy in my  
6             Easter basket and hides colored eggs in the back yard.  
7             There's even a song about him. Haven't you heard it?

8     **PETER:** No, I haven't heard that one. So on Easter you find  
9             eggs and eat candy? Then what do you do?

10    **JAMIE:** My mother won't let me have the candy until later.  
11            We have breakfast, put on new clothes, and go to  
12            church.

13    **PETER:** And what happens at church?

14    **JAMIE:** *(Frowns, thinking hard.)* We sing a lot of songs about  
15            Jesus is risen, and the pastor talks about Jesus, and the  
16            choir sings hallelujah.

17    **PETER:** Do you understand what all that is about?

18    **JAMIE:** Sort of. I know some bad people killed Jesus, and  
19            God brought him back to life on Easter. But how could  
20            anybody kill him if he was God's Son? Couldn't he just  
21            hit them with lightning or something?

22    **PETER:** He could have, Jamie, but that wasn't what God  
23            wanted. You see, I knew Jesus. I was one of those twelve  
24            men who traveled with him. Did you know he was the  
25            first one to call me Peter? Would you like to hear about  
26            it?

27    **JAMIE:** I guess so.

28

29    **SONG:** "Fishing for Men"

30            *(When their names are mentioned, ANDREW, JAMES and*  
31            *JOHN enter carrying fishing nets. Other extra players may*  
32            *enter throughout the song and join in the last refrain.)*

33    **PETER:** *(Stands, singing.)* One day I was here with my  
34            brother Andrew,  
35            And our friends, James and John were out here, too.

1           We were in our boats, repairing the nets  
 2           When along came a man I had never met.  
 3           He spoke to us in a voice soft and clear,  
 4           Saying “Come, follow me. There is nothing to fear.”  
 5           “I don’t care where you have been,  
 6           ’Cause I’m gonna make you fishers of men.”

7

8       **JOHN:** Fishing for men, don’t you think that’s great?

9       **ANDREW:** How will we do it?

10      **JOHN:** With love for bait!

11      **ALL DISCIPLES:** God has a message he wants us to bring

12           To all of his children so we’ll follow the King.

13           We’ll leave our boats and these wet, smelly fish

14           And go with our Lord if that’s his wish.

15      **JAMES:** I’ll go with Jesus, yes that’s my choice.

16      **ALL:** We’ll spread good news. Let the people rejoice!

17           Fishing for men with love for bait.

18           This is gonna be good! We just can’t wait!

19           Fishing for men. ... Fishing for men. ...

20           Fishing for men. ... Fishing for men.

21

22      **PETER:** So we followed Jesus and what a surprise!

23           All these things started happening before our eyes.

24           He healed the sick and he raised the dead,

25           And he fed five thousand with a few loaves of bread.

26           Then one day we were talking in the shade of a tree,

27           And he asked me who the people thought he might be.

28           And when I answered he looked at me, and Wham!

29           He said, “Simon, who do *you* say I am?”

30

31      **JOHN:** Fishing for men, don’t you think that’s great?

32      **ANDREW:** How will we do it?

33      **JOHN:** With love for bait!

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35           To all his children so we’ll follow the King.

1           We'll leave our boats and these wet, smelly fish  
 2           And go with our Lord if that's his wish.  
 3   **JAMES:** I'll go with Jesus, yes that's my choice.  
 4   **ALL:** We'll spread good news. Let the people rejoice!  
 5           Fishing for men. ... Fishing for men. ...  
 6           Fishing for men. ... Fishing for men.  
 7  
 8   **PETER:** The words came fast. I hardly knew what I'd done.  
 9           I said, "You are the Christ, you are God's own Son."  
 10           "Simon," he said, "God has shown you this,  
 11           And with that kind of faith you just can't miss.  
 12           You're trusting, steady and solid as a rock,  
 13           So I'm changing your name." (Now that was a shock!)  
 14           "I'll call you Peter, that's your new name,  
 15           And on faith like yours I'll stake my claim."  
 16  
 17   **ALL:** (*JAMIE joins in.*) Fishing for men, don't you think that's  
 18           great?  
 19           How will we do it? With love for bait!  
 20           God has a message he wants us to bring  
 21           To all of his children so we'll follow the King.  
 22           We'll leave our boats and these wet, smelly fish  
 23           And go with our Lord if that's his wish.  
 24           I'll go with Jesus, yes that's my choice.  
 25           We'll spread good news. Let the people rejoice!  
 26           Fishing for men with love for bait.  
 27           This is gonna be good. We just can't wait!  
 28           Fishing for men. ... Fishing for men. ...  
 29           Fishing for men. ... Fishing for men.  
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 31   **JAMIE:** Wow, you mean Jesus really did all those things?  
 32           You saw him?  
 33   **PETER:** Yes, I saw him make lame men walk and blind men  
 34           see. We were there when he fed thousands of people  
 35           with just a few loaves of bread and some fish.



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