

OUR GIFTS TO JESUS

by Dawn E. Conroy



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Our Gifts to Jesus

An intergenerational
Christmas Eve program

by Dawn E. Conroy

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Two Narrators (Preferably youth but adults will work)

Nativity Characters:

Mary and Joseph carrying baby Jesus

(Baby doll wrapped in a blanket)

Wise Men (Three)

Shepherds (Any number)

Persons with Gifts:

Medical Personnel

Lawyer

Firefighter and/or Police Officer

Teacher

Laborer

Office Worker

Farmer

Janitor

Talented Person(s)

Volunteer

Military Personnel

Parent(s) with a Child

Santa Claus

Pastor

PRODUCTION NOTES

This is a fairly easy program to put together. It may be used for Christmas Eve or a pre-Christmas worship service. It builds on the idea in the song “What Can I Give Him?” and incorporates various walks of life and the props and costumes that symbolize them. The accompanying narration ties the occupation to Christ’s relationship with us. Each character should come down the aisle when introduced in the narration and lay his/her symbolic item in front of the manger. These “tools of the trade” become a gift offering to the Christ child. Each character then joins the line that forms across the front of the chancel area.

Cast

This program is highly flexible. You may use just one person in each occupation or several, as you see fit. By all means, if you have those in your congregation whose actual jobs fit these categories, ask them to participate. If not, fill in the gaps with children or teens costumed as that profession. Using both young and older individuals makes it more meaningful. Another alternative is to use one child for each profession, then ask those in the congregation who share that profession to stand and be acknowledged, e.g., all the teachers, janitors, parents, etc.

Set

The stage area may be bare except for a manger filled with straw or raffia that is placed at Center Stage.

Talent

Depending on the time allotted for your program, this is an excellent time to showcase the talent of a few of the children in your congregation. Dancing, playing a musical instrument, and displaying original artwork are a few examples of talents that may be shared during this portion of the program.

Props

Baby doll wrapped in a blanket for baby Jesus
 Three Wise Men’s gifts (May be a decorative wooden box, a fancy bottle, and a bowl of gold foil-wrapped chocolate coins)
 Shepherds’ staffs
 Stethoscope(s)

Firefighter and police officer hats
 Hard hat
 Large law books
 Chalk and eraser
 Clipboard
 Wheat or corn
 Broom or mop
 Any pertinent props from the children sharing a talent, e.g.,
 dance shoes, instruments, paintings, etc.
 Clock or calendar
 Toy rifle(s)
 Blanket
 Large Santa bag with Bible inside

Costumes

Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, and the Wise Men should wear typical biblical robes with headpieces and sandals. Medical Personnel may wear lab coats or scrubs. Firefighters or Police Officers and Military Personnel may wear their respective uniforms. Farmer may wear overalls. Janitor may wear an apron and, if a woman, a scarf on her head. Santa Claus wears the typical red-and-white costume. The Pastor should wear a clerical robe (or whatever the pastor typically wears in your church).

1 *(NARRATOR 1 and NARRATOR 2 stand behind the*
 2 *podium. The PASTOR sits in the front row. All other*
 3 *CHARACTERS are at the rear of the sanctuary, where they*
 4 *remain until cued in the script. At that time, each of the*
 5 *CHARACTERS should come down the aisle as he/she is*
 6 *introduced and lay the symbolic item at the foot of the*
 7 *manger. They may then begin to line up across the front of*
 8 *the sanctuary, being careful not to block the Nativity scene.)*

9 **SONG: Any Christmas carol.** *(During the carol, MARY and*
 10 *JOSEPH come to the front and take their places in front of*
 11 *the altar and around the manger in a Nativity scene.)*

12 **NARRATOR 1: Tonight we celebrate the birth of our Savior,**
 13 **Jesus Christ. It is his birthday. Two thousand years**
 14 **ago, others celebrated his birth. The first to come to his**
 15 **birthday were the shepherds.** *(SHEPHERDS enter with*
 16 *staffs.) Isn't it strange that the first ones to hear about*
 17 **our King's arrival were very common folks — people**
 18 **like us? The shepherds brought their staffs —**
 19 **instruments that helped them lead and direct their**
 20 **flocks. In return, Christ is our shepherd. He leads and**
 21 **gives guidance to our lives daily, if we just ask.**
 22 *(SHEPHERDS join MARY and JOSEPH in the Nativity*
 23 *scene and remain there throughout the program.)*

24 **NARRATOR 2: There were wise men who came to celebrate**
 25 **his birth also.** *(WISE MEN enter with their respective gifts.)*
 26 **They were men of wisdom and wealth. They brought**
 27 **gifts fit for a king — gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**
 28 **How wise these men were to realize that this tiny baby**
 29 **was the hope of the world. Wise men and women still**
 30 **seek him today.** *(WISE MEN join MARY and JOSEPH and*
 31 *SHEPHERDS in the Nativity scene, where they remain*
 32 *through the rest of the program.)*

33 **NARRATOR 1: Tonight there are people from every walk of**
 34 **life who have come to celebrate Christ's birth and to**
 35 **bring him gifts. There are those among us who work in**

1 the world of medicine as doctors, nurses, and
 2 paramedics. (*MEDICAL PERSONNEL enter with*
 3 *stethoscopes around their necks.*) They have the skills and
 4 equipment which help sustain and nurture our lives. We
 5 must remember that Christ is the Great Physician. Our
 6 lives can be made healthy and whole through our walk
 7 with him. (*MEDICAL PERSONNEL place their stethoscopes*
 8 *by the manger, then start a line at the front of the chancel*
 9 *area, being careful not to obstruct the Nativity scene.*)

10 **NARRATOR 2:** Judges, lawyers, and government leaders
 11 also come to the baby Jesus this night: (*LAWYER enters*
 12 *with several large books*) Men and women who seek
 13 justice in the courtroom and democracy in our country.
 14 People who place their books of knowledge beside the
 15 One who sought freedom and justice for humankind
 16 and who, still today, teaches each of us the “Golden
 17 Rule”: To do unto others as we would have others do
 18 unto us. (*LAWYER stacks large law books by the manger,*
 19 *then joins MEDICAL PERSONNEL in the line.*)

20 **NARRATOR 1:** (*FIREFIGHTERS and POLICE OFFICERS enter.*)
 21 There are those here tonight who daily risk their lives as
 22 firefighters and police officers: Public workers who are
 23 willing to lay down their lives for our safety. Just as
 24 Mary held her baby in her arms so many years ago,
 25 Jesus holds us in his arms and gives us protection from
 26 the world around us. (*FIREFIGHTERS and POLICE*
 27 *OFFICERS place hats at the manger, then join the others in*
 28 *line.*)

29 **NARRATOR 2:** (*TEACHER enters with chalk and eraser.*) Before
 30 the Christ child this evening come those who are
 31 involved in education — teachers, aides, principals, and
 32 students. They bring the symbols of their job, a job that
 33 is sometimes frustrated by policies and ever-changing
 34 theories. They must remember that Jesus was also a
 35 teacher. His objectives and outcomes were very simple:

1 **“Love one another.”** (*TEACHER places chalk and eraser by*
2 *the manger, then joins the others in line.*)

3 **NARRATOR 1:** (*LABORER enters.*) **There are those here who**
4 **work with their hands — laborers and skilled**
5 **craftsmen who mine the earth, forge metal, and build**
6 **foundations. Jesus sees each of us as diamonds in the**
7 **rough. May we make him the rock of our foundation.**
8 (*LABORER places hard hat at the manger, then joins the*
9 *others in line.*)

10 **NARRATOR 2:** (*OFFICE WORKER with clipboard enters.*)
11 **Secretaries, clerks, and CEOs ... people who keep our**
12 **offices and businesses running smoothly are here this**
13 **evening. Daily they make decisions that determine the**
14 **success of their companies. But the only important**
15 **decision that each of us has to make is the one to follow**
16 **Jesus.** (*OFFICE WORKER places clipboard at the manger,*
17 *then joins the others in line.*)

18 **NARRATOR 1:** (*FARMER enters with corn or wheat.*) **Men and**
19 **women who labor in the fields to bring us our daily**
20 **bread come to worship the Christ child this night. Just**
21 **as God’s eye is on the sparrow, he watches and**
22 **provides for each of us. But may we remember that he**
23 **is the Bread of Life which was broken for you and for**
24 **me.** (*FARMER places corn or wheat at the manger, then joins*
25 *the others in line.*)

26 **NARRATOR 2:** (*JANITOR enters with broom or mop.*) **Often**
27 **overlooked and unappreciated are those who clean for**
28 **us. Maintenance workers, trash collectors, janitors ...**
29 **people who take away the filth from our lives. May our**
30 **hearts be made clean in spirit by the One who is pure**
31 **and holy — God’s only Son.** (*JANITOR places broom or*
32 *mop beside the manger, then joins the others in line.*)

33 **NARRATOR 1:** **God gave all of us talents.** (*If you have*
34 *participants who are willing to dance and play instruments*
35 *down the aisle, allow these TALENTED PERSONS to do so*

1 *before you continue with narration.) Some are musical,*
 2 **artistic, creative, athletic. Others have the ability to**
 3 **lead or serve. The Babe whom we worship this night**
 4 **grew up to warn us about burying our talents. Are you**
 5 **honoring Christ daily with the full use of your God-**
 6 **given talents and abilities?** *(TALENTED PERSONS place*
 7 *their instruments or other props by the manger, then join the*
 8 *others in line.)*

9 **NARRATOR 2: Time ... if we only had the time.**
 10 *(VOLUNTEER enters with clock or calendar.) And yet*
 11 **many make time to volunteer to help ... in our**
 12 **churches, our hospitals, and our schools. These unpaid**
 13 **and, many times, unthanked workers are the salt of the**
 14 **earth. Their reward is in the sheer joy of giving to**
 15 **others. After all Jesus has given to you, isn't there time**
 16 **for you to give something back to him?** *(VOLUNTEER*
 17 *places clock or calendar by the manger, then joins the others*
 18 *in line.)*

19 **NARRATOR 1: (MILITARY PERSONNEL enter with toy rifles.)**
 20 **There are those in this congregation who have served**
 21 **in the Armed Forces and many who have loved ones**
 22 **this night who are doing the same. Trained in warfare,**
 23 **these men and women risk their lives to maintain**
 24 **peace. Life in Christ gives us true peace. May our**
 25 **prayer this evening be, as we lay down our instruments**
 26 **of war, for peace on earth and goodwill toward all.**
 27 *(MILITARY PERSONNEL place toy rifles by the manger,*
 28 *then join the others in line.)*

29 **NARRATOR 2: (PARENT and CHILD holding blanket enter.)**
 30 **All of us are children, and many of us are parents and**
 31 **grandparents. We blanket our children with love and**
 32 **care as we worry and agonize over their lives. May we**
 33 **give our children to the Christ child this night, that**
 34 **they might be raised in Christian homes, knowing of**
 35 **Christ's love, and living in obedience to him.** *(CHILD*

1 *places blanket by the manger, then PARENT and CHILD join*
 2 *the others in line.)*

3 **NARRATOR 1:** *(As SANTA CLAUS enters with bag)* Look,
 4 _____, *(Insert name of NARRATOR 2)* it's Santa! I can't
 5 believe he's here to honor baby Jesus.

6 **NARRATOR 2:** Why, of course, _____. *(Insert name of*
 7 *NARRATOR 1.)* Santa is a wonderful part of our
 8 childhood because he shares happiness and generosity
 9 at this time of year. But he especially knows that he is
 10 not what Christmas is all about. He is the messenger
 11 just like we are, but our message needs to be that Jesus
 12 Christ is born and lives today!

13 **NARRATOR 1:** *(To SANTA CLAUS, who kneels at the manger,*
 14 *looking into his bag)* What's the matter, Santa? Isn't there
 15 anything in your bag for the baby Jesus?

16 **NARRATOR 2:** I have a feeling that Santa realizes that there
 17 is nothing in his bag that any of us might receive on
 18 Christmas morning that is nearly as wonderful as the
 19 gift God has given us in Jesus. Isn't that right, Santa?
 20 *(SANTA CLAUS nods.)*

21 **NARRATOR 1:** Is it still OK for me to believe in Santa?

22 **NARRATOR 2:** Sure, _____. *(Insert NARRATOR 1's name.)*
 23 You can believe in Santa, the Easter Bunny, and the
 24 Tooth Fairy. But it is Jesus whom you need to trust and
 25 believe in. He's real, and he offers you salvation. Isn't
 26 that right, _____? *(Insert your PASTOR's title. The*
 27 *PASTOR comes forward and SANTA CLAUS reaches into*
 28 *his bag and gives him/her the Bible.)*

29 **NARRATOR 1:** What did Santa give _____? *(Insert*
 30 *PASTOR's title.)*

31 **NARRATOR 2:** He gave him *(or her)* the one tangible gift
 32 that is better than all others — the Bible, God's holy
 33 Word.

34 **NARRATOR 1:** But it isn't just ministers or Sunday school
 35 teachers who have received the Bible. Each of us has



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