

Hark the Glad Sound

by Rev. Dean Nadasdy

On the Way to the Chancel

These little dramas are intended for use in the worship service either prior to or following the reading of the Sunday Gospel. Either way, through parable, fantasy or direct reference, they are a way to capture the obvious and the subtle themes in the Gospels for Advent through Epiphany.

The dramas require little rehearsal and few actors. Set furnishings and props are minimal. They are written to be presented primarily by young people for the worshiping congregation.

The "Focus" section introducing the dramas might be proclaimed before the drama is presented or simply printed in the worship folder.

If they enhance a celebration of the comedy of God that culminates in the birth of a baby boy in Bethlehem destined to save His people from their sins, they will have done what they were meant to do.

The Gospel for Christmas Day (Series B)

Based on Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:1-18

FOCUS:

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The Word that says we are gifted people. The Word that reconciles. The Word that comes as a baby boy, "full of grace and truth."

SCENE:

Three people are having phone conversations at three different locations. As each talks, a spotlight moving from one to the next would enhance the movement of thought in the drama. An overhead projector can easily be used as a spot by punching a hole in a sheet of paper and projecting through it. Three phones are needed.

CHARACTERS:

Carol - Calls from home; excited; feeling gifted; genuinely surprised

Molly - Calls from bus station phone booth; teenage runaway; timid yet hopeful; carries luggage or backpack

Joe - Calls from hospital; exuberant

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Carol: *(spot on Carol: dials phone; waits, then speaks)* Is Donna home? This is Carol. *(pause)* Okay. *(pause)* Donna, I know this is Christmas, but I had to call. *(pause)* To you, too, Donna. Did you get everything you wanted? *(pause)* Did I?! That's sort of why I had to call. I did it, Donna. I actually did it. I surprised myself, my parents, the whole congregation and probably the Lord Himself! *(pause)* Right. I sat there in front of 200 people, played my guitar, sang the carol solo, and liked it, and liked it! *(pause)* That's right. Believe me, going to church I felt like a Bethlehem shepherd trembling at the thought of angels and archangels. But once I got into the carol, I felt at ease, as if I were home singing in my room. They listened, Donna. They listened. Some of them even smiled. And I, well, I felt gifted. Is it wrong to say I feel gifted, Donna? Is it wrong to say right out loud that I've finally discovered something I can do well? I hope not because that's the way I feel, and when today is over, I may still feel that way. *(spot to Molly; Carol mimes conversation as attention turns to Molly)*

Molly: *(hesitates dialing at first; resolves to dial; dials and waits)* Daddy? It's Molly. *(pause)* Is that you, Daddy? *(longer pause)* Don't cry. *(pause)* I'm at the bus station downtown. Daddy, I want to come home for Christmas. *(pause)* I know, but now I'm here. *(pause)* A church near where I

was staying sends kids home for Christmas. They paid my way. I wanted to come last night, but the buses weren't running right. Daddy, can you come and get me? *(pause)* Is Mom okay? *(pause)* Wait a minute, Dad. Before you come, you should know. I'm not the same Molly anymore. I've changed. I've grown up. *(pause)* And I love you. But I can't promise I'll stay. I'll have to see if things have changed since I left. Do you understand? *(pause)* Right, Dad. "A day at a time, beginning with Christmas."
(hangs up phone; waits at phone for ride; spot to Joe)

Joe: *(has phone off the hook; frustrated; mimics operator's voice)* "I'm sorry. Due to heavy holiday calling, no long distance lines are available at this time. Please call again later." If I hear that one more time... *(presses receiver button)* I'll try again. *(dials)* Aha! It's ringing. *(waits)* Mom, it's Joe. Get Dad on the other line. I'm at the hospital. *(pause)* I know. I've been trying for half an hour to get through. *(pause)* I can imagine. It wasn't any easier here, either. Mom, Dad, Merry Christmas! A child has been born. And it's a boy! *(spot off; all exit)*

The End.

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