

Too Bad About Simeon

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 the First Sunday After Christmas (Series B) Based on Luke 2:25-38

FOCUS:

Some quiet, old folks in nursing homes may have a secret, inner joy we cannot always see. The Church is in nursing homes, too.

SCENE:

Two young people talk in a lounge at a nursing home. In two spaces separate from the main dialog sit an old man who rocks, stares, and wears a whimsically happy smile and an old woman who sits at a table reading her Bible and saying her prayers. Both are best portrayed by aging people from your congregation.

CHARACTERS:

Two young people - learners; on a service project

Two old people - a contemporary Simeon and Anna (no speaking parts)

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- 1: Too bad about Simeon.
- 2: Yeah. Too bad.
- 1: Think his mind has snapped?
- 2: Could be. There is that smile of his.
- 1: Two more weeks and we'll be finished here. It'll be hard to forget Simeon, though.
- 2: I wonder if he has family.
- 1: He never really said.
- 2: Did you ask him?
- 1: Of course. But if Simeon doesn't want to talk about something, he doesn't talk.
- 2: Stubborn?
- 1: Stubborn.
- 2: Does he ever talk? Or do you just sit there and keep him company?

1: As I said, Simeon only talks about what he wants to talk about. I can try everything from fishing to Lindbergh, and he'll just sit there and smile if that's what he feels like doing.

2: What do you make of that smile?

1: Beats me. You'd think the guy knew something we don't.

2: How can anyone smile in a place like this?

1: It's not so bad. The staff cares. They try. You can only do so many things with so many old people.

2: Back to old Simeon. What does he talk about when he talks?

1: God. Jesus. Christmas. The man loves Christmas!

2: Sounds like a religious fanatic.

1: No worse than Anna.

2: That's for sure. Wouldn't you know it. Eighty three residents in Golden Years Nursing Home, and I get a Sunday School teacher with one student—me. Talk about politics with her and you end up praying for the President. I honestly believe that the woman has memorized the New Testament. I hope I never get old and senile enough to be put in a place like this.

1: Can you last two more weeks?

2: Maybe.

1: Hey. What do you think would happen if we could bring Simeon and Anna together?

2: A revival.

1: No, seriously. Do you think they would talk?

2: It's hard to say. They're both so unpredictable.

1: I suppose. You just wish they had more to live for.

2: I now. It's kind of sad when only God can bring a smile to your face.

1: When?

2: Now.

1: Why?

2: For the smile.

1: The smile?

2: Maybe it's not too bad about Simeon. *(exit)*

The End.

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