

youthESource Drama

He Knew!

by Tawn Bueltmann

For Lent 6, Lectionary Series B, based on Mark 14:1-15:47

Focus: Jesus, as Omniscient God, knew what horrors He would face during those last days. Yet He stayed the course and did it... for us! His death and resurrection give us salvation.

Characters: Three angels

Setting: The stereotypical "heaven"—clouds. Angels peer through clouds of cotton batting, cardboard clouds painted white, etc. at the side of the stage. They may wear white clothes or they may appear as many angels did in the Bible—in regular clothes. They could have halos made of gold Christmas garland to help the congregation understand that these are angels. Except for cherubim and seraphim, the Bible doesn't report angels as having wings, so those are not needed either. In every biblical account, angels are male. There could be three chairs for the angels to sit in at times.

Angel 1: (Peering out through cloud) Just look at that! Two days until the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread and they're plotting to kill Him!

Angel 2: Who?

Angel 1: Jesus.

Angel 2: I know that. But who's plotting to kill Him?

Angel 3: The chief priests and the scribes. The very ones who are waiting for the Messiah! There He is and they don't have a clue!

(Angels shake their heads morosely)

Angel 1: I can't look.

Angel 3: Me neither.

Angel 2: Maybe He'll be safe at Simon the leper's house. Looks like He's having supper there.

(Angel 1 peers through cloud)

Angel 1: Who's that? She looks rich! And she's got an expensive alabaster flask. What's she doing with it?

Angel 3: That looks like ointment of pure nard. Very expensive!

Angel 2: Oh, good grief! She broke it and is pouring it over His head!

Angel 1: Do you know what that's worth?!

Angel 3: At least a year's wages!!!!

Angel 2: Wow!!!!

Angel 1: Listen! (Angels listen at cloud)

Angel 3: So Jesus is OK with it. I was like the disciples, thinking maybe He'd rather have the money go for others. But He's worth it! No question about that.

Angel 1: Did you catch what He said about not always being around?

Angel 2: And how wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her?

Angel 3: Cool!

Angel 2: There goes Judas. What's he up to with the chief priests?

Angel 1: He's making plans to betray Jesus!

Angel 3: We gotta do something!

Angel 1: We don't have any orders yet. Wait it out.

Angel 2: Somebody tell Jesus!

Angel 3: He knows. He knows everything!

Angel 2: Oh. Right. (Sighs)

(Angels sit around and relax. Freeze.) Then... the angels peer out again and then sit around and talk.)

Angel 1: I'm glad their Passover celebration went well.

Angel 2: I know. Super special that new covenant He issued...the Institution of the Lord's Supper!

Angel 3: This is gonna be another thing that's done throughout the ages.

Angel 1: Beautiful! Amazing! Christ giving Himself in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins! Who would have thought!

Angel 3: Makes you want to be one of them, doesn't it?

Angel 2: Almost. There are perks. To give your love freely! But to be sinful—no way. I would hate that.

Angel 3: You're right. That wouldn't be fun.

Angel 1: There's forgiveness, though!

Angel 2: Yeah. You're right. Still...

(Angels freeze. Then... look out cloud.)

Angel 1: There they go!

Angel 2: Where're they going?

Angel 3: The Mount of Olives. Judas took off before that last hymn. Makes me nervous.

Angel 1: Just look at Jesus. He knows what's going on. He knows Judas is going to betray Him! How I wish we could stop this!!!

Angel 2: No orders, though?

Angel 3: (Resignedly) No orders.

Angel 1: Let's see if those disciples can stay up all night, praying with Jesus. I doubt it.

Angel 2: Me, too.

Angel 3: Oh, look at Jesus!

Angel 1: What's the matter?

Angel 2: He's sweating, but it's not sweat! It's ... blood... !

Angel 3: He knows, doesn't He? He knows what's going to happen. It's not going to be good. I can tell.

Angel 2: But it'll be good for THEM. For the humans.

Angel 1: You're right. There's no way for them to be saved eternally except this way.

Angel 3: I can't bear to watch anymore.....

(Angels move away from cloud. Freeze.)

Angel 1: (stretching) What a night.

Angel 2: Yeah. No sleep for those humans.

Angel 3: It's terrible. Horrible. I can't stand it.

Angel 1: That scene in the garden! Jesus could have gotten away!

Angel 2: He let them capture Him.

Angel 3: He did it for them...

Angel 1: And then all the lies.

Angel 2: Those chief priests and elders and scribes! Finally agreeing on something, but just lies.

Angel 3: And Jesus not even defending Himself.... He could have snapped His fingers and been out of there in a blink!

Angel 1: But that wouldn't have helped THEM.

Angel 2: Right. And that's the goal, isn't it? Even if He has to suffer so horribly. Oh, the shame of it! Someday they're going to look back and be appalled.

Angel 3: But He'll forgive them, even still.

Angel 1: That's some love.

Angel 2: No kidding.

(Angels rest. Freeze. Angels 2 & 3 move to cloud. Angel 1 walks to them and peers out.)

Angel 1: What's going on now?

Angel 2: You don't want to know.

Angel 3: Well, Peter, that impulsive daredevil who was the first to say that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God... who walked on water when Jesus gave the OK... who was brave enough to hang

out at the courtyard and keep an eye on things..... That Peter denied knowing Jesus. And not just once, but three times!

Angel 2: And in the morning, they bound Jesus and took him to Pilate. There was a whole fiasco with Pilate. Terrible.

Angel 3: Can you believe those idiots chose to release that murderer Barabbas instead of Jesus? What a joke.

Angel 1: No way?!

Angel 3: Yes way.

Angel 2: It's all a set up. The religious leaders have it out for Him and don't care who lies about what. It's shameful.

Angel 3: They're totally making fun of Him. Put a kingly purple cloak on Him, not because they know He's a King, but just to make fun.

Angel 2: And a crown of thorns...

Angel 1: This is too painful to think about.

Angel 2: You missed the whipping.

Angel 1: Good!

Angel 3: They're making fun of Him and spitting on Him...

Angel 1: Look! They're taking Him to Calvary. Oh, this is unbelievable! That's God Almighty! Do they have any clue?! What are they doing? They've gone crazy!!!!

(Angels freeze. Then move away from the cloud and sit.)

Angel 1: (Head in hands) I can't stand this.

Angel 2: (Shaking head) Horrible!

Angel 3: Words can't describe it!

Angel 1: To kill God! What are they thinking?!

Angel 2: They aren't. Stupid humans.

Angel 3: Surely some will realize Who He is after all those signs.

Angel 1: Darkness over the whole land for three hours!

Angel 2: The curtain of the temple torn in two, from top to bottom!

Angel 3: The centurion knew. I heard him say it. "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Angel 1: Those poor women.

Angel 2: Mary, His mother. I can't imagine.

Angel 3: They've been so faithful.

Angel 1: To see that!

Angel 2: To see your Son being treated like some common criminal, when He was nothing but Love itself! He never sinned! Never! Why would they treat Him that way?

Angel 3: Why would He let Himself be treated that way? He could have snapped His fingers and been out of there!

Angel 1: Love. He did it because of Love.

Angel 2: Love for those nasty, sinful humans.

Angel 3: Love... He IS Love.

Angel 1: Death didn't come to Him...

Angel 2: He went to it.

Angel 3: For them...

(Angels rise and move towards the cloud)

Angel 1: This is not the end of the story!

Angel 2: No, indeed.

Angel 3: It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!

(Angels move to center stage.)

Angel 1: The Light will conquer darkness.

Angel 2: The One who created the vast expanse of the heavens will burst through the tomb.

Angel 3: The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, purifies us from all sin...

All: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

(All freeze)