

Christmas for the Cure

Cast-

Narrator 1: _____

Narrator 2: _____

Doctor: _____

Nurse: _____

Shepherd 1: _____

Shepherd 2: _____

Mary: _____

Joseph: _____

Angel: _____

Sheep: _____

Donkey: _____

Narrator 1: Church is sometimes mistakenly thought of as a place to be perfect and be close to God. It is a place to worship God, but by no means is it for those that feel they have it all together. The church is a place we come to feel supported and connected to God through worship and each other. Jesus came to us in a bad situation, and we live in poor conditions. Jesus's birth on Christmas morning was the beginning of humanity learning how to love and live like Jesus.

Narrator 2: This evening's play takes place in a doctor's office with some well-known patients coming in because their life is hard right now. One might even want to equate the Doctor's office as a church sanctuary, the medical staff as church staff, and the collaboration of people in need to welcome something new into their lives as the people sitting in the pews tonight.

In walks, Joseph looks worried and tired. He stands at the check-in desk at the hospital.

Nurse: Hello, welcome to Bethlehem Methodist hospital; how can I help you?

Joseph: I am just so tired. I am worried that I won't be able to provide for my newly pregnant wife. We have traveled so far for this census, and now I cannot offer a place for my new family. I feel so low.

Nurse: What is your name?

Joseph: My name is Joseph.

Nurse: Oh goodness, Joseph, you do look tired, and I can understand your worry. Let me get you to the Doctor.

The nurse takes Joseph by the shoulder and walks him into the room with the Doctor. The nurse hands a chart to the Doctor.

Doctor: Well, hello Joseph. It looks like you are experiencing some exhaustion. Can you tell me more?

As Joseph talks, the Doctor listens to the heart and checks limbs like an exam.

Joseph: Doctor, I came here today hoping you could prescribe something to help me provide for my new family and not feel so tired.

Doctor: You appear to need a good night's rest and some people who can offer some opportunities for you to support your family. I will write a prescription and point you in the direction of a friend of mine who has some large outbuildings that may help you.

Doctor hands Joseph a piece of paper.

Joseph: *He squints his eyes and reads the prescription out loud.* You wrote on my prescription that I need Christmas? What?

Doctor: Trust me, you don't know it yet, but you need Christmas. Now head out this door and walk about two blocks. You will find a sign on the side of the building that says Bethlehem Boarding house. Knock on the door and ask for Ray, and tell him the Doctor sent you.

Joseph nods his head and looks a little confused. He looks at the prescription and then shrugs and heads for the door. Once he leaves the Doctor's office, he appears in what will be a stable and rests. Each of the following characters will join Joseph at the stable to create a traditional nativity scene that the doctor and nurse will point to at the end of the skit.

Mary walks up to the nurse's desk.

Nurse: Hello, welcome to Bethlehem Methodist Hospital. You look like you may need a doctor.

Mary: I am not sure if I need a doctor. I am very young, and this is my first child. I feel perplexed about what I need to do.

Nurse: What is your name? When is your baby due?

Mary: Mary. I don't know when the baby is due. I was just told I would have a son, and I needed to name him Jesus.

Nurse: Ok, Mary, let's get you right in here to the Doctor.

The nurse leads Mary into the Doctor's office and hands the Doctor a chart.

Doctor: Is this your first child? And you are unsure of the due date?

Mary: Yes, I am confused about when the baby will come, and I also question if I will be a good mother once he arrives. My husband Joseph was just in to see you, and he has found a place for us to sleep tonight. He wanted me just to have you check on me before we settle in for the night.

The Doctor proceeds to listen to the baby bump and examines the size while Mary talks.

Doctor: I believe you will have that baby in the next week, although I can't tell you when. I will forward your name to some very experienced Midwives that can help you with every step of the delivery when the time comes. Remember, you are not alone. I will write you a prescription and send you on your way. You need rest. *The Doctor writes out a prescription and hands the paper to Mary. She looks just as confused at Joseph.*

Mary: You wrote me a prescription for Christmas? What does Christmas have to do with having this baby?

Doctor: Trust me, you need Christmas! *Mary shakes the Doctor's hand and leaves toward the stable.*

Angel walks up to the nurse's desk. The nurse acts as if they are taken back by the greeting.

Angel: *Loudly proclaims to the nurse.* Hello! Is this the Doctor's office?

Nurse: You are in the right place. What seems to be the problem?

Angel: I am having trouble controlling my excitement. I see to approach people with too much excitement. They tend to turn away and run.

Nurse: Can I have your name? *The nurse writes down information and name on a chart.*

Angel: My name is Angel. My full name is Herald the Angel, but you can just call me Angel. I work for God, so I am pretty sure the Doctor takes my insurance!

Nurse: Ok, Angel, step right in here, and we will see what the Doctor says.

Doctor: Well, who do we have here? Your chart says you are an Angel who works for God. What seems to be the problem?

Angel: I think my voice is too loud. I seem to scare people when I deliver messages.

Doctor: Well, what kind of messages have you been delivering?

Angel: Well, I told this young virgin girl that she would have a baby named Jesus. And she shook and fell to the ground. Then I just came from out in the field where I thought my bright light was enough warning for these two shepherds watching their sheep when I told them that a savior would be born tonight. They screamed and ran away from me.

Doctor: Angel, I believe it was the kind of message, not how you delivered it. Both of those messages are a lot for humans to understand. I have just the prescription for you. *Doc writes a prescription and hands it to the Angel.*

Angel: You wrote me a prescription for Christmas! Of course, that all makes sense now with the messages, I delivered earlier. Thanks, Doc.

Doc gives Angel a nod as they head out of the office.

Sheep and Donkey walk into the office. "sheepishly."

Sheep: Baaa, excuse me. Veterinarian's office is closed for the census. Baaa Would the Doctor make an exception to see us?

Nurse: We don't usually see farm animals, but what seems to be the problem?

Donkey: Our stomachs hurt so bad. We feel a little lightheaded.

Nurse: Let me get the Doctor out here to check you out.

The Doctor appears and starts looking over the sheep and the Donkey.

Doctor: When was the last time you ate and drank water?

Sheep and Donkey shrug and shake their heads. The Doctor turns to the nurse and signals to grab the bucket.

Nurse: Here are some oats and water. How do you feel now?

Sheep and Donkey: Oh, we feel so much better. Thank you.

Doctor: I will also write you a prescription for Christmas, and I believe that is just what you will need in times such as these.

Animals take the prescription in their mouth and head toward the manger that is starting to fill up.

Shepherds come running into the nurse's desk. They are in shock.

Nurse: Shepherds! What are you doing here? You are supposed to be out in the field watching your sheep. Why are you not talking? Let me get you in to see the Doctor.

Doctor: It seems like you are in shock. Did you happen to see a bright light, and did an angel tell you that the Savior would be born? Take a deep breath in and out!

Shepherd 1: How did you know about the bright light?

Shepherd 2: I didn't even know we needed a savior. I didn't know what to say to the Angel.

Doctor: It is normal to be shocked by big the news. I just treated the Angel a little bit ago, and she described two shepherds running away from her.

Shepherd 1: Deep breaths deep breaths deep breaths!

Shepherd 2: It is nice to know our feelings are normal.

Doctor: You are feeling very normal feelings of shock, and you did the right thing to come in and talk with someone. Let me write you a prescription.

Shepherd 1: You wrote us a prescription for Christmas?!?

Shepherd 2: Does this have anything to do with what that Angel was telling us?

Doctor: You are brilliant, Shepherds. Enjoy your prescription.

Shepherd 1: Where do we get this prescription filled?

Doctor: Just head on down the street to Bethlehem Boarding and check in the stables.

Shepherds shake the Doctor's hand and head in the direction of the stable.

By the time they get there, all the characters have positioned themselves in the traditional manger scene, and a baby Jesus has been added.

Nurse: Look at that, Dr. Isaiah. **It** looks like Christmas was the cure!

Doctor: The Angel is not the only one that gets messages from God. *Doctor winks.*