

Santa Claus And The Christ Child

By: Stephen DeCesare Copyright 1993 All Rights Reserved

As the overture begins, we see silhouettes of angels and they sing from behind the curtain and they sing:

Prologue

Angel Chorus:

SING TO THE LORD; WITH HYMNS OF JOY PRAISE HIS NAME.
FOR HE IS THE LIVING GOD! LORD OF LIFE AND LORD OF LOVE!
ALL YOU ON EARTH PRAISE THE LORD. LIFT UP YOUR VOICES IN SONG.
SING THE GLORY OF HIS HOLY NAME.
LET THE FIRE OF HIS UNENDING LOVE ENTER YOUR HEART.

OH, HAIL THEE LORD OF HEAVEN.
HAIL, HAIL THEE LORD OF ALL THE SAINTS AND OF ALL THE ANGELS.
COME PRAISE THE LORD! BLEST BE THE LORD OF MERCY,
BLEST BE THE LORD FOR THOU HAST CHEERED
AND ENLIGHTENED EVERY SOUL.

O YOU ON EARTH, STAND BEFORE YOUR GOD.
RAISE YOUR VOICES TO HIM. LET THEM SOAR TO HIS THRONE!
FOR THE LORD IS THE KING OF ALL THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH!
PRAISE THE LORD IN ALL HIS GLORY. SING FOR HIM THE KING OF KINGS!
SING HOSANNA! HOSANNA TO YOUR GOD!

SING TO THE LORD; WITH HYMNS OF JOY PRAISE HIS NAME.
FOR HE IS THE LIVING GOD! LORD OF LIFE AND LORD OF LOVE!
ALL YOU ON EARTH PRAISE THE LORD. LIFT UP YOUR VOICES IN SONG.
SING THE GLORY OF HIS HOLY NAME.
LET THE FIRE OF HIS UNENDING LOVE ENTER YOUR HEART.

God:

Nicholas. Nicholas?! Nicholas, where are you?

Nicholas: (entering from audience with three piece suit)

Right here, my Lord.

God:

The time for my Son to be born on earth is drawing near. Is everything ready?

Nicholas:

Yes, Lord; For the choir of archangels is ready to sing the "Gloria"; Michael is ready to give his message to the world. And the star, oh, the star; It's all fired up and ready to go.
So I would have to say everything's under control.

God:

Excellent. There is one more thing that must be done.

Nicholas:

What is that Lord?

God:

See that man down there on earth?

Nicholas:

You mean him, Kris Kringle?

God:

Yes. I want you to go down to earth and tell him: he is to be my helper to spread peace and love throughout the world. And tell him that he must first visit the birthplace of my Son.

Nicholas:

Pardon me sir, but Kringle?! Isn't there someone else you'd rather have? How about one of the prophets? They're not doing anything at the moment.

God:

It must be him.

Nicholas:

But he isn't exactly fond of you, you know.

God:

Nicholas!

Nicholas:

All right. I'm going. You don't have to get excited for God's sake.

God:

Nicholas!!!

Nicholas:

I'm going! I'm going!

Nicholas rushes out off the stage.

Scene 1

Nicholas enters, but not in the silk suit that he was wearing, but in beggars clothes. He looks extremely disgusted.

Nicholas:

Couldn't you at least have given me more suitable attire?

A loud clap of thunder is heard. He then proceeds to Kris Kringle's door and knocks. Kris Kringle enters from the bedroom and slowly approaches the door.

Kris:

Yes.

Nicholas:

Are you Kris Kringle?

Kris:

Yes. What do you want?

Nicholas:

My name is Nicholas, and I was sent to give you a message of the highest importance.

Kris:

Highest importance, huh? Just how high are we talking?

Nicholas:

Oh, real high. Higher than King Herod himself.

Kris:

Well, if it's that high, I guess we had better hear it. And then you can be on your way for I've much better things to do than to sit around and chit-chatting all day.

Nicholas:

You are to visit the birthplace of the newborn King tonight. It will be there that you will become a messenger of love and peace for all.

Kris:

Is this some sort of joke?

Nicholas:

No, it's not.

Kris:

Well sir, someone is playing a cruel trick on you. Herod isn't even married. How could he have a son?

Nicholas:

Not Herod's son. I'm talking about the Son of God.

Kris:

Listen. I'm an old man and I do not appreciate pranks and jokes at my age. Tell me, who sent you?!

Nicholas:

God.

Kris:

God, huh? What are you, one of those long-haired preaching prophets or something?

Nicholas:

No, sir. I'm an angel.

Kris:

An angel? Well where are your flowing robes; And what about your wings?

Nicholas:

Listen, those are merely fables and figments of man's small imagination. For the archangels are the ones who have the wings. And you think I like being dressed like this? No way! I'm used to fine silk clothes and suits; Not these simple rags.

Kris:

Well, Mr. Angel, tell God that Mr. Kris Kringle would like nothing better than to stay at home tonight where he belongs and has better things to do than to go and see His Son.

Nicholas:

But. Mr. Kringle...

Kris:

But nothing!!!

ALL MY LIFE I HAVE WORKED SO HARD BEING THE BEST THAT I COULD BE.
AND AT EVERY TURN I HAVE BEEN STRUCK DOWN
BY THIS GOD THAT YOU SO REVERE!
NOW SOME "GLORIOUS ANGEL" BIDS ME TO GO FAR FROM HOME,
HIS SON TO SEE.
NO! I WILL NOT LEAVE TO TRY TO PLEASE A GOD WHO'S SET AGAINST ME!

ALL THE PAIN AND ALL THE HEARTACHE I'VE FACED,
HE HAS SEEN TO GIVE ALL TO ME!
FIRST, MY SON WHO DIED, MY HANDS AND MY WIFE,
AND YOU SAY THAT I SHOULD CARE?!
I WILL TELL YOU THAT MY CARES ARE ALL HERE WITH MY WIFE

WHO'S DYING IN THERE. **(Points to bedroom)**
BUT IF HE STAYS TRUE, HE WILL TAKE HER TOO!
SO YOUR GOD MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

ALL THIS HORROR, ANGUISH, HEARTACHE, SORROW
THAT HE'S FREELY GIVEN TO ME!
ALL THIS HATRED, ANGER, SCORN AND OUTRAGE
THAT'S BEEN FESTERING FOR YEARS;
NOW I WILL FREELY GIVE BACK TO "HIS HOLINESS"!
NOW YOU HAVE MY ANSWER, SIR; LEAVE ME BE.
YOU CAN TELL YOUR GOD THAT I PLAN TO STAY HOME WHERE I BELONG.

AND NOW "MR. ANGEL" I WANT YOU GONE
FROM MY HOME AND OFF OF MY LAND!
AND IF I SEE YOU COME NEAR HERE AGAIN, I'LL SEND YOU TO GOD MYSELF!

Kris throws Nicholas out of his house and slams the door in his face. Nicholas stumbles to the ground, picks himself up, dusts himself off, thinks for a second and gets an idea and goes off. Kris is now worried he woke his wife and slowly moves to the bedroom.

Scene 2

In the bedroom of Kris Kringle's wife, Cecelia. He lights a candle, then brings over a cup of water to her. He puts the candle on a table next to the bed and hands her the cup to drink.

Kris:

How are you feeling?

Cecelia:

All right. Not any better than before but, all right.

Kris:

Well, you'll be getting better soon. I'm sure of it.

Cecelia:

I hope so. Then I can help you around the house again instead of you taking care of both your customers and me.

Kris: (turns away for he knows it isn't true)

Never mind about that. I'm handling it just fine.

Cecelia:

Well, if anything, I wish I could get out of this bed. By the way, who was that at the door?

Kris:

Some fool trying to sell some useless garbage that we don't need. Did he wake you?

Cecelia:

No. I think I woke up after he left. After you slammed the door.

Kris:

I'm sorry, Cecelia. The door's hinges need to be repaired. It won't close right.

Cecelia:

I see. You know before you came in, I had the most wonderful dream. Of how wonderful our lives will be once I get better; Of all the things we will do again and the new things we've never done before.

DAYS IN THE SUN; NIGHTS BY THE MOON; WALKS BY THE STARLIGHT;
A STOLEN KISS BEFORE THE DAWN.
A WALK IN THE RAIN; SKIES FILLED WITH STARS;
DAYS FILLED WITH MEM'RIES WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

FOR A LOVE LIKE OURS IS UNDYING, UNMATCHED.
THERE'S NOTHING ON EARTH TO TAKE IT FROM US.

THE TIME WE CAN SHARE JUST YOU AND ME.

HOURS OF THE DAY; DAYS OF THE YEAR;
MOMENTS TO TREASURE, FOR ALL THESE DAYS ARE NEAR MY LOVE!

Kris begins to cry

Cecelia:

Kris, what's wrong? Why are you crying?

Kris:

It's nothing, Cecelia. It think I may have gotten caught up into your dream. It got to me, that's all.

Cecelia:

Are you sure that's all it is?

Kris:

Yes, I'm sure you foolish woman. Now stop worrying about your old fool of a husband and get some rest. Good night, my love.

Cecelia:

Good night, my love. (**Kris leaves the bedroom**)

Scene 3

As soon as Kris walks out of the bedroom, there's a knock at the door.

Kris:

Who is it this time?!

When he opens the door, he sees four shepherds.

Jacob:

Kind sir, we are a group of shepherds passing through town. We wond'ring if you could spare some food or drink of any kind.

Ephram:

We've been traveling for miles. Anything that you can give us would be appreciated.

Kris:

Where are you headed? Why aren't you in some field tending your sheep?

Issac:

We were, but you see...

David:

This angel appeared and told us to follow the brightest star. "There we shall see a gift brought from God for the world."

Kris:

Is everyone going crazy tonight? Listen, I'm not int'rested in your problems so will you please....

He is just about to throw them out and shut the door in their faces, when from behind the shadows, a small peasant boy lures his head.

Kris:

Come on in. I'll give you what I can.

Everyone, including the boy enters the house. Kris gets whatever refreshments he can find and the shepherds eat heartily. The boy doesn't eat anything, even though Kris does offer. He then approaches Issac.

Kris:

Is that your son?

Issac:

No sir. I've never seen him before.

David:

Neither have I.

Ephram:

When we approached your house he was already here...

Jacob:

We presumed he was your son.

Kris, who is totally puzzled by all of this, goes over to the boy

Kris:

How are you doing there, son? Where are you from?

Boy:

I come from a far away kingdom, sir.

Kris:

Where are your parents?

Boy:

I have no parents, sir.

Kris:

Well, then what are you doing so far away from your kingdom?

Boy:

I have come to visit the newborn king, and I'm gonna give Him a present.

Kris:

And what could you give a King?

Boy:

All that I have; My love and devotion forever.

Ephram:

Thank you most kindly, sir, for your generous hospitality.

Jacob:

Yes, we can't thank you enough.

Kris:

Well, you can thank me, by just going on your way and leaving me be.

David:

I have an idea. Why don't we sing a song for him.

Kris:

Please. That isn't necessary...

Issac:

It is the very least we can do to repay your kindness.

Kris:

Well, if it will make you leave all the more sooner, go ahead.

The Four Shepherds:

COME HEAR THE SHEPHERDS TALE, THE LONELY SHEPHERDS TALE
ABOUT A LONELY SHEPHERD IN THE LONELY DESERT NIGHT.
OFTEN TIMES THE SHEPHERDS SOBBING WAS HEARD IN THE DAYLIGHT.
HIS ONLY LONELY FRIEND HAPPENED TO BE A LONELY CAMEL
WHO HAD KEPT HIM COMPANY ALL THROUGH THE YEAR.
OFTEN HE WOULD SING A LOVE SONG FOR THE CAMEL TO HEAR.

THROUGHOUT THE WINTER NIGHTS, I ALWAYS FIND YOU NEAR;
THROUGH SNOW AND RAIN AND DUSTSTORM YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN HERE.
YOU NEVER HAVE TO MUCH TO SAY; BUT YOU I ALWAYS COUNT ON.
YOU KEEP ME WARM AND I WILL KEEP YOU SO CLOSE ALL THROUGH THE EONS.

SO MANY TIMES I'D CALL YOU; YOU'D RUN LIKE YOU HAD WINGS.
FOR LOYALTY THAT'S SO TRUE; FOR YOU THIS SONG I SING.
AND IF TOMORROW SOMEONE SAID: "YOU'RE ONLY GOOD FOR GLUE."
I'D TURN TO THEM AND TELL THEM HOW MY LOVE FOR YOU IS TRUE;
FOR I REALLY LOVE YOU.

They do the dance of the four shepherds. The boy enters the dance and then takes Kris by the hands and brings him in, but he tires very easily and has to go and sit down.

The Four Shepherds:

I'D TURN TO THEM AND TELL THEM THAT I REALLY LOVE YOU.