

CREATURE'S CHRISTMAS

by Nancy Amundson



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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In order of appearance)

CAMEL 1

CAMEL 2

CAMEL 3

COW 1 & 2

DONKEY

BULL

LAMBS 1 & 2

DOG

GOAT

GOPHERS 1 & 2

MICE 1 & 2

SPIDER

PRODUCTION NOTES

The charm and effectiveness of this playlet will best be served with simple production techniques. Scenery is not necessary and the costuming need only be suggestive to achieve believability.

We recommend that each of the animals wear only one or two items suggestive of the animal they represent. The camels, for example, can be outfitted with attached "humps" and long ears. The bull can have "horns"; the lambs, some lamb's wool clothing; the gophers, small ears; the mice, a tail; the spider, extra legs; and the dog, a collar. Face make-up will help also in suggesting the character of the animal. Make large eyes for the spider, add whisker marks for the mice and a goatee for the goat. Let your imagination take over. The costuming and make-up will be as much fun as putting on the play itself.

The Christmas carols suggested are all well known and the music is available from almost all church hymnals or any church music library.

It will not be necessary for the children who enact the roles of the animals to overplay the animal's characteristics. The script will keep the identities clear. The charm will be found in the audience's "willing suspension of disbelief" as they watch the children perform.

1 *Camels enter through the audience to stage*
 2 *singing "We Three Camels" to the tune of*
 3 *"We Three Kings"*
 4
 5 **CAMELS:** We three camels from Orient are, bearing kings
 6 who traveled so far.
 7 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 8 following yonder star.
 9 O, star of wonder, star of night, star with
 10 royal beauty bright.
 11 Westward leading, still proceeding, guide
 12 us to thy perfect light.
 13 **CAMEL 1:** Sure was a long hot ride.
 14 **CAMEL 2:** You better believe it! The sand kept blowing in
 15 my eyes and that smelly stuff I was carrying on
 16 my back — "phew!"
 17 **CAMEL 3:** You mean the frankincense and myrrh?
 18 **CAMEL 2:** No, the rotten bananas.
 19 **CAMEL 3:** You think you had it bad. You should've been
 20 carrying that heavy gold I had on my back.
 21 **CAMEL 2:** I still can't figure out why the kings came all
 22 this way following that star.
 23 **CAMEL 3:** It has something to do with what they read in
 24 an old, old book about a new king being born.
 25 **CAMEL 1:** Then why didn't we stay at the palace in
 26 Jerusalem where what's-his-name was?
 27 **CAMEL 2:** You mean King Harold?
 28 **CAMEL 3:** Herod.
 29 **CAMEL 2:** Harold, Herod, same difference. I heard one of
 30 the Magi say Harold wanted them to come back
 31 and tell them where the baby was so he could
 32 worship the new king, too.
 33 **CAMEL 3:** That was nice.
 34 **CAMEL 2:** No. He didn't mean it. An angel told them to
 35 not go back.

1 CAMEL 3: I sure hope we go home soon. I miss our fancy
 2 stables back east.
 3 CAMEL 1: Me, too! This sure is a mangy old stable.
 4 *(Cattle and donkey enter in time to hear last*
 5 *comment)*
 6 COW 1: Hey! Wait a minute! This isn't a mangy stable.
 7 This is our home.
 8 CAMEL 1: *(Rolls eyes and holds nose higher in the air)*
 9 Well, we're awfully sorry you have to live here.
 10 COW 2: Don't be. We like it. Besides, it's a special place.
 11 There are three kings in there right now.
 12 BULL: And there's a lady who just had a brand new
 13 baby boy.
 14 *(Cattle sing "We Cattle Were Lowing" to the*
 15 *tune of "Away in a Manger")*
 16 CATTLE: We cattle were lowing and donkey sang, too,
 17 While Mary and Joseph prayed all the night
 18 through.
 19 Then shepherds and wisemen who followed
 20 a star,
 21 Came to our small stable with gifts from afar.
 22 COW 1: Are your masters here in town to be counted
 23 like everyone else?
 24 CAMEL 2: Oh, no. They came to find the new king that's
 25 been born. We've traveled for months following
 26 that star up there.
 27 COW 2: Then why are they here at our stable? There's
 28 no king in there — just a tiny baby asleep in our
 29 manger.
 30 CAMEL 1: Beats me. All I know is that star we've been
 31 chasing stopped dead in its tracks right above
 32 this place.
 33 CAMEL 2: Maybe they're inside asking directions.
 34 CAMEL 3: Why are those people with a baby in there
 35 anyway? I've never heard of 'people' spending

1 the night in a barn and especially having a baby
 2 born in a barn!

3 DONKEY: They didn't have anywhere else to go. Every
 4 place else was full. I brought them all the way from
 5 Nazareth. And poor Mary, that's the lady's
 6 name, she was sooo tired and sooo ready to have
 7 her baby, she begged to stay any place, as long
 8 as it wasn't outside.

9 COW 1: Did this Mary and what's-his-name . . . ?

10 DONKEY: Joseph.

11 COW 1: Joseph. Did they say anything about a king?

12 DONKEY: No. They talked about an angel Gabriel who
 13 came to Mary and told her she was special
 14 — that God had chosen her to give birth to
 15 God's very own son — and they were supposed
 16 to call him Jesus.

17 BULL: A 'real' angel?
 18 (*Lambs enter*)

19 LAMBS 1&2: Did you say angel?

20 BULL: Uhh . . . yes.
 21 (*Lambs sing "While Shepherds Watched Us*
 22 *Lambs Tonight" to the tune of "While Shepherds*
 23 *Watched Their Flocks by Night"*)

24 LAMBS: While shepherds watched us lambs tonight,
 25 all seated on the ground.
 26 The angel of the Lord came down
 27 and glory shown around
 28 and glory shown around.

29 BULL: You actually saw the angels?

30 LAMB 1: Right! They sang songs and said glory to God
 31 in the highest and on earth, peace to men of
 32 goodwill.

33 LAMB 2: Our shepherds were afraid and when they ran
 34 away, so did we. We didn't hear the whole story
 35 but there's the dog and goat. (*Dog and goat*

1 enter) They were there. Maybe they know
 2 something.
 3 *(Dog and goat sing "Fear Not the Angel Said"*
 4 *to the tune of "While Shepherds Watched Their*
 5 *Flocks by Night")*
 6 DOG &
 7 GOAT: Fear not the angel said tonight, but we were
 8 not afraid.
 9 *(Goat) With my sharp horns, (Dog) and my*
 10 loud bark,
 11 *(Both) While others ran, we stayed.*
 12 While others ran, we stayed.
 13 GOAT: We heard the angels tell the shepherds to go to
 14 Bethlehem and find a baby in a manger.
 15 DOG: They said a savior was born this very day.
 16 *(From behind a rock we hear arguing. "You go*
 17 *first" "No! You!" "I don't want to get stepped*
 18 *on" O, alright!")*
 19 COW 1: Look, there are the gophers.
 20 *(Gophers sing "We Wonder as We Burrow" to*
 21 *the tune of "I Wonder as I Wander")*
 22 GOPHERS: We wonder as we burrow down under the earth,
 23 Why all this commotion for one baby's birth.
 24 But high in God's heaven a star's light did shine,
 25 So those in the darkness would have a bright sign.
 26 GOPHER 1: It's so noisy I can't sleep. All day and all night
 27 people and animals are stomping on the roof of
 28 our house.
 29 GOPHER 2: Yeah, this used to be a nice, quiet town. Now I
 30 can't even stick my head out of the hole without
 31 someone stepping on me.
 32 GOPHER 1: And that new star is so bright it keeps me awake
 33 at night.
 34 GOPHER 2: I'm used to the dark — that light hurts my eyes.
 35 COW 1: Do you gophers know what's happening?

- 1 **GOPHER 1:** How can we? All we hear lately is stomp,
 2 stomp, stomp. All day, all night.
- 3 **GOPHER 2:** And all we see is legs, legs, legs. We barely made
 4 it out of our hole this time without being
 5 trampled by all those legs, legs, legs.
- 6 **COW 1:** How are we ever going to solve this mystery?
- 7 **BULL:** Look! Here come the mice and spider.
- 8 **COW 2:** What would they know?
- 9 **BULL:** Let's listen.
 10 (*Mice and spider sing "Just a Bug" to the tune*
 11 *of "There's a Song in the Air"*)
- 12 **MICE &**
 13 **SPIDER:** Just a bug and some mice, "What do they
 14 know?" you say.
 15 Well, while you talk and talk, we've been
 16 listening all day.
 17 And inside in the stable this beautiful morn,
 18 The King, the Messiah, yes, Jesus was born.
- 19 **MOUSE 1:** We were sitting quietly in the corner of the
 20 stable and we saw all kinds of things.
- 21 **MOUSE 2:** Kings and shepherds.
- 22 **SPIDER:** All bowing down and worshipping the baby.
- 23 **MOUSE 1:** Some called him Savior.
- 24 **MOUSE 2:** Some called him King.
- 25 **SPIDER:** The lady called him Jesus.
- 26 **ALL:** (*Singing "What Child Is This?" to the tune of "Greensleeves"*)
 27 What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's
 28 lap is sleeping?
 29 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while
 30 shepherds watch are keeping.
 31 This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds
 32 guard and angels sing.
 33 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the
 34 son of Mary.
- 35 **CAMEL 1:** So the new King is actually inside there?

1 **SPIDER:** Yes, and everyone is bringing him birthday
 2 presents.
 3 **GOPHER 1:** What could all of us give him?
 4 **CAMEL 1:** We already gave him our part.
 5 **DONKEY:** So did I.
 6 **COW 1:** I'm sure we'll think of something.
 7 *(Each in turn sings this revised version of "The*
 8 *Friendly Beasts.")*
 9 **DONKEY:** "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
 10 I carried His mother up hill and down.
 11 I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.
 12 "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
 13 **CAMELS:** "We," said the camels, so proud and bold.
 14 We carried rich treasures of myrrh and gold.
 15 We carried three kings through heat and cold.
 16 "We," said the camels, so proud and bold.
 17 **CATTLE:** "We," said the cattle, all white and red.
 18 We'll give him our manger for a bed.
 19 We'll give him our hay to pillow his head.
 20 "We," said the cattle, all white and red.
 21 **SHEEP:** "We," said the sheep, all shaggy and shorn.
 22 We'll give him our wool for a blanket warm.
 23 He'll wear our warm coat on a cold bleak morn.
 24 "We," said the sheep, all shaggy and shorn.
 25 **DOG &**
 26 **GOAT:** "We," said the dog and billy goat, too.
 27 We'll then keep a watch the whole night through,
 28 So nothing can harm the baby new.
 29 "We," said the dog and billy goat, too.
 30 **MOUSE 1:** What could we give him?
 31 **MOUSE 2:** All we have is a tiny dried up piece of cheese.
 32 **SPIDER:** I have a couple of juicy flies in my web.
 33 **GOPHER 1:** Flies!
 34 **GOPHER 2:** Dried up cheese!
 35 **GOPHER 3:** YUK!



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