

EASTER'S CREATURES

by Karen Hanely



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Easter's Creatures

A children's play
for Easter

by Karen Hanely

CAST OF CHARACTERS

FARMER FRED — *The grandfather*

ANDY — *Oldest grandchild*

SARAH — *Granddaughter*

BECKY — *Youngest granddaughter*

BEN BUNNY

FLOPPY — *A rabbit*

HOPPY — *A rabbit*

COTTON — *A rabbit*

PAIGE PIG

CONNIE COW

DONNY DONKEY

ROBERT ROOSTER

CHICKENS — *As many as there are extra children*

DONNA DOVE

FILBERT FISH

SANDY SHEEP

LILY LAMB

PRODUCTION NOTES

Casting: If there are fewer than fifteen children, then eliminate the Chickens. Their lines could be spoken by all the animals. You could also do without one or two of the rabbits. Assign Cotton's part to Ben and Hoppy's part to Floppy.

Setting: The play takes place on a farm. A fence is the main scenery needed. It should run most of the width of the stage and be set back from the front enough for most of the action to take place in front of it. Connie Cow, Paige Pig, Donny Donkey, Sandy Sheep and Lily Lamb stand behind it. The rest of the animals should sit in front of the fence. The fish could be in a stream or pond to one side. To make this, spread a blue cloth or blanket on the stage floor. A backdrop could be painted with a barn, fields, etc., with trees and shrubs placed in front of it, or you may do without a background.

Music: Most are familiar hymns. "Jesus Loves Me" is first sung by the three children, then by the whole cast. You will want to use all three verses as the third, "Jesus, take this heart of mine," sums up the message so well. "All Things Bright and Beautiful" uses some of the original words as well as new verses that include the animals in this play. Another song uses the familiar tune from "Morning Has Broken" with original words. "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" may be found in the Lent/Easter section of most hymnals. "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" could be replaced by any Palm Sunday song. "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" could be replaced by any Easter song telling of Christ's resurrection. The optional song "His Sheep Am I" is found in *Sing Praises*, published by Praise Book, Ventura, California. It was written by Orien Johnson, copyright © 1956 Sacred Songs (a division of Word).

Use tambourines with "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna." For "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," celebrate with ribbon dancers.

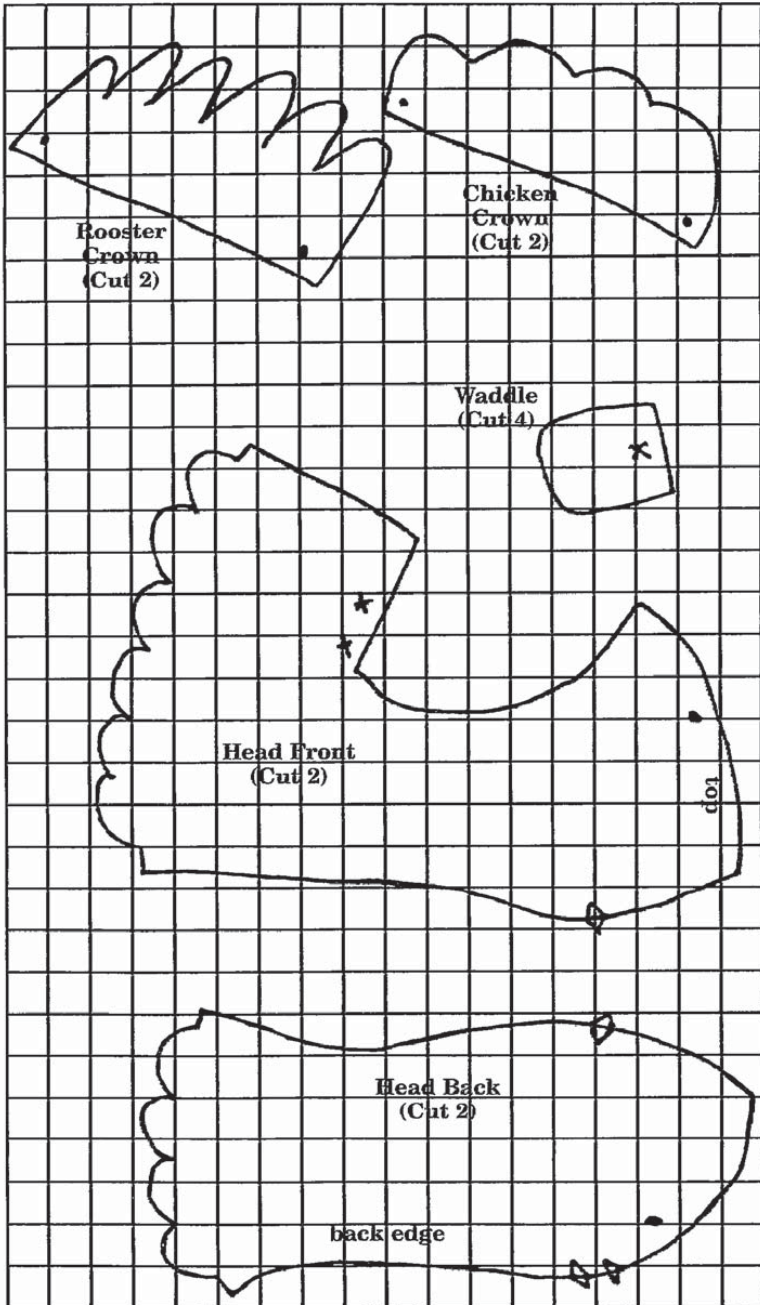
Costumes: Farmer Fred may be dressed in overalls. The three children should wear blue jeans. Becky could have her hair in pigtails. Add a few freckles. The animals could be dressed in full

costumes or just headpieces. Patterns are available for most animals in fabric stores. Use makeup on their faces rather than masks. The children can see where they are going and you will hear their voices better. The fish could be painted on fabric or paper that runs the length of the child. Pin it on and have the child lay on the "water." A chicken head pattern is included.

Props: Four buckets and a basket of Easter eggs.

Directions for Chicken Head Pattern (Pattern found on next page):

1. Enlarge pattern. One square = one inch. All seams are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
2. Cut two of each piece from off-white or tan material. Use red for the crown and waddle.
3. Sew crown, leaving straight edge open. Clip seam and turn. Stuff lightly. Baste straight edge closed.
4. Sew fronts to backs at side seam.
5. Place crown between dots on one half. Baste in place. Sew two halves together.
6. Hem front of head with a narrow hem. Zigzag the scalloped edge.
7. Sew waddles together, leaving the top edge open. Clip and turn. Stuff lightly. Turn under top edge and sew on at the Xs.
8. Sew Velcro to front flaps to fasten.



1 *(It is early on Easter morning. The scene opens with the*
 2 *ANIMALS sleeping. The CHILDREN enter.)*

3
 4 **SONG:** "Jesus Loves Me" *(First verse. BECKY sings the verse solo*
 5 *and is joined by ANDY and SARAH for the chorus.)*

6 **BECKY:** Jesus loves me! This I know,
 7 For the Bible tells me so;
 8 Little ones to him belong,
 9 They are weak but he is strong.

10
 11 **BECKY, ANDY and SARAH:** Yes, Jesus loves me!
 12 Yes, Jesus loves me!
 13 Yes, Jesus loves me!
 14 The Bible tells me so.

15
 16 **BECKY:** Does Jesus really love me?

17 **ANDY:** Of course he does, Becky.

18 **BECKY:** Then why aren't we at home? Why do we have to
 19 spend our vacation here on Grandpa's farm?

20 **ANDY:** Don't you like it here with all the animals?

21 **BECKY:** But I missed the neighborhood Easter egg hunt.

22 **ANDY:** But we get to help feed the animals.

23 **SARAH:** Yes, Grandfather wanted to get the work done so he
 24 could get to church early.

25 **BECKY:** What's so special about today?

26 **ANDY:** It's Easter!

27 **SARAH:** Yeah, today we get to wear our new dresses. They
 28 are soooo beautiful. I can't wait! And Andy, I bet all the
 29 girls will go crazy when they see you in your new suit.

30 **ANDY:** Knock it off, Sarah. Look, here comes Grandfather
 31 now.

32 **FRED:** *(Enters with four buckets of feed.)* Becky, Sarah, Andy,
 33 help me with these buckets. *(Each CHILD takes a bucket.)*
 34 Andy, give yours to the donkey and cow. Sarah, yours is
 35 for the pig.

1 **SARAH:** Yuck!

2 **BECKY:** Who gets mine?

3 **FRED:** Yours is for the sheep, Becky. I'll feed the rabbits and
4 **chickens.** (*ALL give food to ANIMALS. ANIMALS start*
5 *moving about, making noises, etc.)*

6 **BECKY:** Little lamb, your coat is so soft.

7 **ANDY:** The donkey and cow are so friendly. See, they let me
8 **pet them.** (*Pats each on the head or shoulders.*)

9 **SARAH:** How come I get stuck with a smelly old pig? Pigs
10 **aren't soft or cuddly.**

11 **FRED:** Sarah, the pig is one of God's creatures. They are
12 **really very intelligent.**

13 **ANDY:** Sure, God made all the animals as well as you and
14 **me.**

15

16 **SONG:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

17 **ALL CHILDREN:** (*Verse 1*) Each little flow'r that opens
18 Each little bird that sings
19 He made their glowing colors
20 He made their tiny wings.

21

22 *Chorus:* All things bright and beautiful
23 All creatures great and small
24 All things wise and wonderful
25 The Lord God made them all.

26

27 (*Verse 2, original*) He made the lowing cattle,
28 A pig with curly tail;
29 The donkey with his long ears,
30 The ocean's fish and whale.

31

32 *Chorus:* All things bright and beautiful
33 All creatures great and small
34 All things wise and wonderful
35 The Lord God made them all.

1 *(Verse 3, original)* **The lamb so soft and woolly,**
 2 **The rooster with his crow;**
 3 **The hippy hoppy bunnies,**
 4 **God made each one we know.**

5
 6 *Chorus:* **All things bright and beautiful**
 7 **All creatures great and small**
 8 **All things wise and wonderful**
 9 **The Lord God made them all.**

10
 11 *(Verse 4)* **He gave us eyes to see them**
 12 **And lips that we might tell**
 13 **How great is God Almighty**
 14 **Who has made all things well.**

15
 16 *Chorus:* **All things bright and beautiful**
 17 **All creatures great and small**
 18 **All things wise and wonderful**
 19 **The Lord God made them all.**

20
 21 **FRED:** **Come on, kids. Let's change our clothes so we can go**
 22 **to church.**

23 **SARAH:** **Yes! My new dress. Let's go.** *(Runs off.)*

24 **BECKY:** **I wish we were going to an Easter egg hunt.** *(Leaves*
 25 *with FRED and ANDY. When all human characters have*
 26 *exited, the ANIMALS begin to talk.)*

27 **LILY LAMB:** **Mama, what is Easter?**

28 **SANDY SHEEP:** **It is a very special day for people, Lily.**

29 **BEN BUNNY:** *(Hops up the stage, followed by the other RABBITS.)*
 30 **It is a very special time for us rabbits, too.**

31 **FLOPPY RABBIT:** **We hide eggs for the Easter egg hunt.**

32 **HOPPY RABBIT:** **But first we paint them different colors.**

33 **COTTON RABBIT:** **My specialty is stripes, both straight and**
 34 **swirls.**

35 **FLOPPY RABBIT:** **I'm best at painting polka dots.**

1 **SANDY SHEEP:** Easter egg hunts are fun, but there is much
2 more to Easter.

3 **LILY LAMB:** What could be better than painted eggs?
4 *(RABBITS go back to their places.)*

5 **PAIGE PIG:** Easter is a time for feasting. Why, I almost
6 became the main course. Good thing my brother
7 outweighed me. We will miss him. He was always such a
8 ham. Now he's the ham for dinner.

9 **CONNIE COW:** I think that Easter has to do with the baby
10 that slept in a manger. My grandmother told me the
11 story. Two thousand years ago, a baby was born in a
12 stable. The cow that lived there shared her manger so
13 the baby could have a soft bed.

14 **LILY LAMB:** Who was the baby in the manger?

15 **CONNIE COW:** Jesus.

16 **SANDY SHEEP:** Yes, but Jesus didn't stay a baby. He grew
17 up to be a man.

18 **DONNY DONKEY:** He did a lot of good things. The people
19 loved him so much that they held a parade for him. My
20 great-grandfather told me about it. It seems that Jesus
21 rode on one of my ancestors into the city of Jerusalem.
22 The people laid their coats down for the donkey to step
23 on, they waved branches, and they sang.

24

25 **SONG:** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"

26 **ALL ANIMALS:** Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children
27 sang;

28 Through pillared court and temple, the lovely anthem
29 rang;

30 To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
31 The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

32

33 "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
34 For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
35 O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,

- 1 And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!
- 2
- 3 **LILY LAMB:** So Easter is about praising Jesus.
- 4 **SANDY SHEEP:** Yes, Lily. Easter is a wonderful time to
- 5 praise Jesus.
- 6 **ROBERT ROOSTER:** It is also about denial.
- 7 **LILY LAMB:** What's that?
- 8 **SANDY SHEEP:** Denial is what most people do when asked
- 9 if they did something wrong.
- 10 **LILY LAMB:** You mean like when I say I don't know how the
- 11 mud got on my wool after I've played in the pigpen?
- 12 **SANDY SHEEP:** So that's what happened!
- 13 **LILY LAMB:** Sorry. *(Pause)* Robert, tell me what denial has to
- 14 do with Easter.
- 15 **ROBERT ROOSTER:** The story has been passed down in my
- 16 family for many years. Peter once told Jesus that he
- 17 would never leave him. Then Jesus said that before the
- 18 rooster crowed the next morning, Peter would deny
- 19 him three times. That night Jesus was arrested, and all
- 20 the disciples fled — that is, except Peter. Peter followed
- 21 and was standing in the court where Jesus was being
- 22 tried. Then someone asked if he was one of Jesus'
- 23 followers.
- 24 **CHICKENS:** One time he swore, "I don't know him. Ask me
- 25 no more."
- 26 **ROBERT ROOSTER:** Then another person asked him if he
- 27 was one of Jesus' followers.
- 28 **CHICKENS:** One time, two times he swore, "I don't know
- 29 him. I do not know him. Ask me no more."
- 30 **ROBERT ROOSTER:** Finally a third person asked if he was
- 31 one of Jesus' followers.
- 32 **CHICKENS:** *(Divide up the sentences among the CHICKENS.)*
- 33 One time, two times, three times he swore, "I do not
- 34 know him. I do not know him. I do not know him. Ask
- 35 me no more."

ROBERT ROOSTER: That was when the rooster crowed,
 “Cock-a-doodle-do.”

SONG: “I Do Not Know Him” (*To the tune of “Morning Has Broken”*)

ALL ANIMALS: (*Verse 1*)

A garden for praying, our Lord was betrayed
 By Judas’ signal, a kiss so bold.
 Lead before Pilot, Jesus for trial.
 Peter, you’re his friend, three times was told.

Chorus: I do not know him. I do not know him.
 I do not know him. Three times he said.
 Then came the morning, the rooster’s crowing.
 Peter was saddened, he hung his head.

(*Verse 2*) Do you know Jesus? Is he your Savior?
 Why do you stumble? Forget to pray?
 We betray Jesus by simple actions,
 When we don’t follow his holy way.

(*Verse 3*) When we don’t show love, be kind to each other.
 Share of our blessings, his teachings keep.
 Jesus is saddened, calls to us pleading.
 Follow my footsteps, help feed my sheep.

Chorus: I do not know him. I do not know him.
 I do not know him. Three times he said.
 Then came the morning, the rooster’s crowing.
 Peter was saddened, he hung his head.

LILY LAMB: That’s a sad song.

ROBERT ROOSTER: Yes, it is. But even sadder was when
 Jesus was hung on the cross to die.

LILY LAMB: Oh!

1 **DONNA DOVE:** But Easter is more than that. Easter is new
 2 beginnings. Jesus died, but then rose from the dead. He
 3 still lives today.

4

5 **SONG:** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

6 **ALL ANIMALS:** *(Verse 1)*

7 Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia!
 8 Sons of men and angels say, alleluia!
 9 Raise your joys and triumphs high, alleluia!
 10 Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, alleluia!

11

12 *(Verse 2)* Lives again our glorious King, alleluia!
 13 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
 14 Once he died, our souls to save, alleluia!
 15 Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

16

17 **LILY LAMB:** Now that's a happy song.

18 **FILBERT FISH:** Not only is Jesus living, he forgives us for
 19 all our mistakes.

20 **LILY LAMB:** Did Jesus forgive Peter for saying that he
 21 didn't know him?

22 **FILBERT FISH:** Yes, he did. One day after Jesus had risen
 23 from the dead, some of the disciples went fishing. They
 24 didn't catch any fish even after fishing all night long.
 25 Then Jesus came and told them to try the other side of
 26 the boat. They caught so many fish that the nets were
 27 ready to tear. Then they had a fish fry, right there on
 28 the shore.

29 **SANDY SHEEP:** That was when Jesus forgave Peter.

30 **FILBERT FISH:** Yes, Jesus asked Peter if he loved him.

31 **CHICKENS:** *(Together)* Peter said, "You know I do."

32 **FILBERT FISH:** Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." Then he asked
 33 a second time, "Do you love me?"

34 **CHICKENS:** *(Together)* Peter said, "You know I do, you know
 35 I do."



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