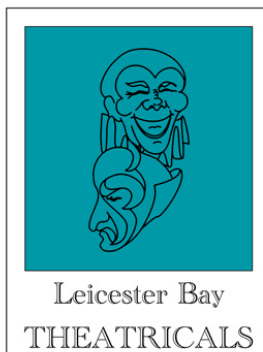



THE
INKKEEPER'S
SON

A MUSICAL OF FAITH
BOOK BY
STEPHEN TOMER
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
C. MICHAEL PERRY



Newport, Maine

© 2023 by C. Michael Perry & Stephen Tomek

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CAUTION:

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that

THE INNKEEPER'S SON

being fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States Of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion Of Canada, and the other countries of the Copyright Union, is subject to royalty. Anyone presenting the play without the express written permission of the Copyright owners and/or their authorized agent will be liable to the penalties provided by law.

Script and music copies must be rented from the Publisher and Royalty must be paid to the publisher for each and every performance before an audience whether or not admission is charged. A performance license must first be obtained from the publisher prior to any performance(s).

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the author or his respective agent(s), or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or under the terms of any license permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency.

Federal Copyright Law -- 17 U.S.C. section 504 -- allows for a recovery of a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000 *for each infringement*, plus attorney fees.

The professional and amateur rights to the performance of this play along with the lecturing, recitation, and public reading rights, are administered exclusively through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be made. For all other rights, inquiries may be made to the authors through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS. Any adaptation or arrangement of this work without the author's written permission is an infringement of copyright. **Unauthorized duplication by any means is also an infringement.**

FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS YOU MUST APPLY TO THE PUBLISHER OR YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW!

The possession of this RENTAL SCRIPT, does not constitute permission to perform the work herein contained, in public or in private, for gain or charity. Proper prior application must be made, license granted and royalty paid before a performance may be given. Copies of this SCRIPT and all other rehearsal materials may be rented from:

LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS

P.O. Box 536 Newport, ME 04953-0536

www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com

Printed in the United States Of America

THIS NOTICE MUST APPEAR IN ALL PROGRAMS, ON ALL POSTERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND INTERNET ADVERTISING/WEBPAGES FOR THE PLAY:

“THE INNKEEPER'S SON is presented through special arrangement with Première Theatrical Licensing on behalf of Leicester Bay Theatricals. All authorized materials are also supplied by LBT, www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com”

NOTE: Your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals limits you to making copies of this document for persons directly connected with your production. Do not distribute outside of your cast and crew. Following your performance run you must destroy all photocopies, preferably by shredding them. If we sent you the document in printed format, you must return that document to us. If we provided you with an electronic PDF file, simply trash that on your computer so that it cannot be recovered. The electronic document may only be on ONE computer -- it may NOT be duplicated. This is also a part of your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals.

ORDER #3369

The Innkeeper's Son

by Stephen Tomek and C. Michael Perry

2 teenboys, 2 teengirls, 2m, 2w, + Angels and Shepherds

Jamis, the Innkeeper's Son — (a boy newly Bar-mitsvahed)

Benjamin, his friend — slightly older, probably by months only

Myriam (Mary) — the young espoused-wife of Yosef ben Heli (late teens)

Yusef (Joseph) — A Priest and merchant (late 20s)

Innkeeper (Johanán) — a man in his 30s

Innkeeper's Wife — a woman in her 30s

Grandmother (SAVTA) (IMA to her son) — a woman in her 50s or 60s

Innkeeper's Daughter — slightly older than her brother, Jamis

Angels

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Shepherd 3

MUSICAL NUMBERS

#1 — NOTHIN' TO DO — *Jamis and Benjamin*

#2 — BEING A BOY — *Yusef and Innkeeper*

#3 — THE ANOINTED ONE — *Savta*

#4 — THROUGH ETERNITY — *Myriam* (Lyric adapted by C. Michael Perry from the Song of Hannah [Samuel2:1-10])

#5 — THE PRINCE OF PEACE — Angels (Lyric and melody borrowed from Handel's Messiah)

#6 — HE ASKS IT ALL — Shepherds, Yusef, Myriam (Lyric by Stephen Tomek)

#7 — NOT SO ORDINARY — Yusef, Benjamin, Jamis

#8 — I'M NOT ALONE — Benjamin, Jamis

#9 — I PROMISE — Company

Musical Rehearsal/Performance materials are available for this production:

PIANO-VOCAL SCORE

VOCAL BOOK

ORCHESTRATIONS consist of: Conductor's Score, and parts for Flute, Oboe/English Horn, French Horn, Harp (can be a digital piano), Drums/Percussion, Cello, Bass. (Individual parts are available.)

NAMES:

Benjamin means "son of the right hand" in Hebrew. The traditional Hebrew spelling of this name is

"Binyamin" which comes from the words "ben," meaning "son of" and "yamin," meaning "right hand."

Jamis is a variant of Jameson, related to James. James is ultimately derived from Jacob. Jacob is derived from the Hebrew name 'Yaakov', which means 'following after'. This is derived from the Hebrew word 'Yahweh', which means 'God', and 'aqeb', which means 'heel'.

Uziah — Jamis' second name; (or Uzziyāhū) meaning "My strength is God"

Johanán — (Yochanan) the Hebrew form of John; meaning "Yahweh is gracious." or "Graced by God"

Myriam — (or Mariam, Maryam) Hebrew for Mary, meaning ‘beloved’ Mary of Nazareth was not “Jewish”[only tribe of Judah] but also a “Levite”, a daughter from a long line of High Priests.

Yusef — (or Yossef, Josef, Yoseph) the Hebrew form of Joseph, meaning “he will add” or “God increases” or “God shall multiply”

Yeshua — (or Yehoshua) Jesus being the Greek form; Joshua being the English form; meaning "Yahweh is salvation", or "Yahweh saves". And with that name, Jesus declared that He is also Yahweh ben Elohim Yeshua. Son of God.

Ben sheli — an endearment for a son

Biti — an endearment for a daughter

Abba — an endearment for a father

Ima — an endearment for a mother

Savta — an endearment for a grandmother

Sabba — an endearment for grandfather

Ahuvi — an endearment for a wife by her husband

Ahuvati — an endearment for a husband by his wife

THE INNKEEPER’S SON a Christmas Miracle by Stephen Tomek, with Music and Lyrics by C. Michael Perry. 2 teenboys, 2 teengirls, 2m, 2w, + Angels and Shepherds. Simple historical setting and costumes. About 70 minutes. A twist of the story of Joseph and Mary and the Innkeeper. Jamis, the Innkeeper’s son and his friend, Benjamin, are bored with the sameness of life and fascinated by the local Roman Guard. The future lies with Rome and all it can offer. Strangers appear on their doorstep at taxing time. Joseph and his espoused wife, Mary — heavily pregnant — arrive looking for a room. The inn has none, but they are offered room in the stable. They accept. As miracles occur, the household and others find that there is the most special guest as a baby is born — The Messiah — which not only changes the lives of the adults, but begins to hit home with James and Benjamin, who now see a future they had never imagined. **ORDER #3369**

STEVEN TOMEK — Nestled in the rolling hills of Eastern Pennsylvania, Ormrod and its scenic quarries was Stephen’s stomping grounds as a child. At thirteen he was sent to a boarding school in West Virginia where he spent the next seven years including two years of college. He later finished college with a BTH working as a RA. Always bi-vocational, he has pastored and worked in Ohio, South Carolina, and North Carolina. He is currently Vice president of the Bible Methodist of Tennessee. He and his wife Angela now live in Langsville, Ohio and pastor in Rutland. OH. Four of their five children live near them and one is on missionary assignment in Montana.

C. MICHAEL PERRY — composer, lyricist, script-writer, for more than 60 musical theatre projects, Mr. Perry is also the President and founding officer of Prémère Theatrical Licensing, a play publisher and performance rights licensing organization located in Newport, Maine. His musical, “An Enchanted April” played in NYC at Theatre Row in 2019, shortly followed by Covid. His musicals have been performed across the United States and Canada, as well as in Venezuela, Egypt, South Africa, Malta, India, Hong Kong, and Australia/New Zealand. His new show, with Joanna Kraus, SOFIA-A musical inspired by a Southwest Legend, recently had its staged reading at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California.

THE INNKEEPER'S SON

A musical

Scene 1 — *two youth, BENJAMIN, with a sling-shot at his belt, and JAMIS, with a stick he swishes at the air and ground, meander on stage. JAMIS stops, bored.*

MUSICAL #1 — NOTHIN' TO DO

JAMIS: What do you want to do, Benj?

BENJAMIN: I don't know. What to you wanna do?

JAMIS:

NOTHIN' TO DO IN BETHLEHEM.

BENJAMIN:

NOTHIN' GOOD EVER CAME FROM BETHLEHEM.

JAMIS:

ALL THE OLD STORIES, THEY'RE SUCH A BORE.

BENJAMIN:

ALL SOMETHING I'VE HEARD BEFORE!

JAMIS:

NOTHIN' NEW AND DIFF'RENT HERE AT HOME.

BENJAMIN:

NOTHIN' THAT'S ROMAN.

BOTH:

NOTHIN' TO DO IN BETHLEHEM.

JAMIS:

KICKIN' AT BUSHES,

BENJAMIN:

THROWIN' A STONE
AT NOTHIN' BUT EMPTY AIR.

JAMIS:

THERE'S NOTHIN' HERE.

BENJAMIN:

THERE'S NOTHIN' THERE!
NOT A DOG

JAMIS:

OR A DONKEY

BOTH:

ANYWHERE!

(hopeful)

MAYBE AN EAGLE, SOARIN' THE SKY.

JAMIS:

A ROMAN BRIGADE?

BENJAMIN: *(excited)*

I'D DIE!

JAMIS: *(very marked and staid)*

A RABBI'S SON WITH PEYOT CURLS.

(He pulls at the 'imaginary curls' at his own temples)

BENJAMIN: *(shaking his head)*

NOT A THING TO TEASE.

BOTH:

NOT EVEN SOME GIRLS!

JAMIS:

NOTHIN' TO DO IN BETHLEHEM.

BENJAMIN:

NOTHIN' GOOD EVER CAME FROM BETHLEHEM.

JAMIS:

SABBA AND SAVTA¹ WAIT FOR THEIR KISS.

OR GATHER TO SAY THE BRIS²

(The wind seems to stop filling their sails.)

BENJAMIN:

SAME OLD SABBATH EV'RY WEEK GETS OLD.

NOTHIN' THAT'S BOLDER.

BOTH:

NOTHIN' THAT'S NEW IN BETHLEHEM!

(A noise is heard off-stage, a donkey bray. JAMIS and BENJAMIN hide behind a bush waiting to throw stones at the donkey. MYRIAM, YUSEF, (and donkey, if possible — puppet or prop) enter, traveling the road to Bethlehem.)

JAMIS: *(as travelers approach bush)* Got a big stone Benj?

¹ SABBA AND SAVTA Hebrew words for Grandfather and Grandmother

² The festivities begin with a communal welcome of the new baby, we declare "**baruch haba**", which literally means "blessed is the one who comes". We recite this ceremonial greeting twice in a Jewish person's life; as a baby enters the room of the bris or baby naming, and as a couple enter the wedding canopy. "Blessed are You, O Lord Our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and has given us the command concerning circumcision." Phonetic Hebrew transliteration: **Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al ha-milah.**

BENJAMIN: You bet Jam, and I'm gonna hit that donkey right in the noggin!

JAMIS: Ah, you couldn't hit the broad side of a sepulcher.

BENJAMIN: (*pokes Jamis in the ribs*) You just wait!

JAMIS: Hush!

(fingers to lips)

They're getting close... Oh no!...

BENJAMIN: What!?

JAMIS: I think they see us. Get down.

(BENJAMIN lays on ground.)

YUSEF(JOSEPH): (*approaching*) Hello, boy.

(JAMIS tries to step back.)

I have a favor to ask you.

JAMIS: (*disgustedly*) Oh boy.

(he steps out with rock behind his back)

BENJAMIN: (*whispering*) Man, you blew this one!

JAMIS: Uh – Yes sir, What do you want?

YUSEF: My wife and I have been traveling from far off Nazareth for the last several days. We are tired and need a place to stay for the night. Could you kindly show us the way to an Inn near here.

(JAMIS looks at Myriam for a moment, then like a brilliant idea strikes him, he drops the rock.)

JAMIS: Why surely sir, I would love to help you, but, but...

YUSEF: Yes?

JAMIS: You see, My poor sickly father has sent me to town to beg money for a small portion of food for tonight's supper. I, I, Ah, perhaps,

(thinking)

kind Mr. Nazareth, for a small fee, I could lead you to an Inn.

YUSEF: A small fee, eh...

JAMIS: Yes, say maybe one—
(looks at bush)
uh, two shekels, would be sufficient.

YUSEF: *(looking doubtful)* I hardly believe your story young man, but since I am in need, then 2 shekels it will be.
(Looks at Myriam, MYRIAM winks and smiles, he puts hand to mouth and whispers.)
I ought to thrash him.

JAMIS: Thank you, kind Mr. Nazareth. Follow me.

(Grabs donkey by ear. Donkey brays.)

YUSEF: Young man never grab a donkey by the ear...

(LIGHTS out.)

Scene 2 — Lights come on at Inn's door.

JAMIS: Here we are, Sir – now for the money.

(JOSEPH reaches in bag and pulls out two shekels as door suddenly opens – JAMIS takes off quickly.)

INNKEEPER: Jamis Uziah, come here now, your chores are not finished.

(JAMIS disappears.)

YUSEF: Oh – so you know the young man?

INNKEEPER: Know him? Know him? I ought to know him, He's my son. My wayward son, I might add.
And this here is his broken-hearted mother.
(WIFE nods)
And may I ask, why you were giving the young lad money.

YUSEF: I was just giving him a gift for bringing my wife and I to your Inn.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Did the boy ask for money?

YUSEF: Yes ma'am, but truthfully we did need to find this place, for we are weary with travel and my Myriam is great with child.

(INNKEEPER and INNKEEPER'S WIFE nod heads.)

INNKEEPER: Well, still, he shouldn't have asked. Ever since he started hanging around with those other rascals, we have not been able to control him. Oh me, what shall I do with him? Oh, and about the room – I'm very sorry.

YUSEF: Sorry?

INNKEEPER: Sorry indeed – you see, I wish all my rooms were full of common folks like you; here to pay your taxes. But unfortunately, my rooms are full of those who will collect your taxes and soldiers who will punish you if you don't.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: *(looks at Myriam)* Surely dear, you could find a place some where to put up these poor folks.

INNKEEPER'S DAUGHTER: I know Abba – what about the stable. I could clean it up for them and there would be lots of warm hay, in case...

(Looks at parents)

You, you know...

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Yes, we understand, Biti³.

INNKEEPER: What a splendid idea, Biti. The stable it will be. That is, if it's all right with you folks.

YUSEF: Indeed.

(MYRIAM agreeing)

That sounds wonderful. How much will this be?

INNKEEPER: Whatever you paid the rapscaillon will be fine. I'll take it from his hide later.

YUSEF: His hide?

INNKEEPER: I'll work him, not beat him.

MUSICAL #2 — TO BE A BOY

YUSEF: And a rapscaillon? But he is your son?

³ my daughter

INNKEEPER: Yes, my beloved, my Ben sheli.

INNKEEPER:

I KNOW HE TRIES TO ACT THE MAN.
BUT WHEN HE TRIES, HE DOESN'T THINK HE CAN.
HE OFTEN RUNS TO HIDE.

YUSEF:

I THINK HE NEEDS YOU TO GUIDE HIM;
TO LOVE THE MAN GROWING INSIDE HIM.

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BE A BOY; WAS IT NOT?

INNKEEPER:

MOST DIFFICULT. I HADN'T HAD THAT THOUGHT.
HE'S DISTRACTED BY EVERYTHING IN LIFE.
AND SOMETIMES HIS WORDS CUT LIKE A KNIFE.
THEN SOMETIMES HE SHOWERS US IN JOY.
TO BE A BOY.

YUSEF:

TO BE A BOY IS TO NOT QUITE BE A MAN.
TO BE ALMOST THERE IS A PART OF LIFE'S MASTER PLAN.
TO LEARN AND STRETCH THE SKIN YOU'RE IN,
TO SOMETHING THAT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE...
TO OPEN THAT DOOR IS HARDER THAN
IT WAS TO BE A BOY.

INNKEEPER:

TO BE A BOY WAS PERPLEXING AT BEST.
FLEXING, AND GROWING,
LEARNING BUT NOT KNOWING.
TO BE A BOY HELD WONDERS EACH DAY.
TO BE A BOY MEANT NOT KNOWING WHAT TO SAY.
OR DO.

YUSEF:

LIKE YOU
AND I

BOTH:

WE TRY, AND TRY,
STILL TO BE A BOY.

THRILL TO BE A BOY.

(LIGHTS out.)

Scene 3: — *JAMIS and BENJAMIN are alone sitting talking.*

BENJAMIN: That was great Jamis. A whole shekel!

(looks admiringly at coin)

Can't wait to spend it...

(thinks)

...but I still would have liked to bean the donkey.

JAMIS: Oh, you'll get your chance tonight.

BENJAMIN: Tonight?

JAMIS: Have you already forgot? Tonight is the night we sneak out and stone Abijah's beehives and whatever else we can stone.

BENJAMIN: Yeah—like Grouchy Martha's cat...

JAMIS: ...and that crazy man in the graveyard.

BENJAMIN: *(looking scared)* That's your idea, not mine.

JAMIS: Yeah, can you imagine. When he finally wakes up; the last thing he remembers going through his mind is a five pound piece of granite.

(Both laugh)

Remember, when I throw a pebble through your window, it's time to go.

BENJAMIN: I'll be ready, all except that graveyard thing.

(JAMIS laughs. LIGHTS out.)

Scene 4 — *The Inn. INNKEEPER is counting money, INNKEEPER'S WIFE, sewing. JAMIS is sitting playing with marbles. SAVTA [Grandmother] walks in with the scroll.*

SAVTA: All right everyone – time to put all your worldly things away and read.

(JAMIS tries to slip past to leave)

Oh, Oh!

(grabs Jamis by ear)

Not so fast young man. What's your hurry?

JAMIS: Ouch, Sabta, I, I, uh just need to go to bed, that's all.

SABTA (GRANDMOTHER): Well, you never go to bed this early and NEVER before we read the ancient Scriptures.

(She leads JAMIS to a chair and sets him down, he rubs his ear, she sits down and opens the Scriptures and looks at the INNKEEPER, waiting for him to put money away. Finally he looks over at her and puts his stuff away.)

Thank you, Yohanan. Why must it always be a fuss to get you two boys to stop what you're doing and read the ancient scriptures?

INNKEEPER: Please forgive me, Ima. I'm just having trouble getting the numbers to come out right.

SAVTA: If those numbers weren't soooo important maybe...

INNKEEPER: I know, Ima.

SAVTA: *(Picks scroll back up)* Alright, lets see...

Mikayahu 5:2-4

5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

5:3 Therefore will He give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

5:4 And He shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall He be great unto the ends of the earth.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Ima, you surely seem to love those verses.

SAVTA: Oh, yes, Biti, I do.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: But why?

SAVTA: Because it speaks of the one who is to come, my Messiah, my Master.

(Much expression)

And this scripture says he will come to our town. Little Bethlehem.

INNKEEPER: Oh Ima – You act like He's coming tonight.

SAVTA: *(long sigh)* Yohanan, maybe not tonight, but soon.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: But how do you know, Ima?

SAVTA: I can't explain it, Biti, but there is a feeling deep in my old bones. An excitement. He will come and he will come soon.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: But how will He come, Ima. Will He ride into town with a legion of men? Will we know it is Him when He comes?

SAVTA: Biti, He will come, not as a great King, but what does Isaiah say? "Unto us a Son is born, unto us a Son is given." He will come as a Baby, and when He does come – I want to be there to bow my knees before him.

MUSICAL #3 — THE ANOINTED ONE (SEE END NOTE 1)

SAVTA:

BORN OF A VIRGIN, ISAIAH PROPHESED.
YESHUA CHRIST WILL COME AS A BABY,
FROM THE STEM OF JESSE.
"BORN IN BETHLEHEM" MIKAYAHU FORETOLD.
DAVID SAID HE WAS, "MOST HOLY."
MESSIAH, THE PRINCE.
HE WROTE PSALMS ABOUT HIS LORD;
HE SANG SONGS OF PRAISE TO HIS GOD.
MOSES SAID, THE LORD OUR GOD WOULD BE
RAISED UP FROM THE MIDST OF US.
A PROPHET; UNTO HIM WE SHALL HEARKEN.
EZEKIEL TOLD OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT;
THE MESSIAH WOULD BRING IT AND BE IT:
A SANCTUARY FOR HIS PEOPLE,
HE OUR GOD, AND WE HIS PEOPLE.
CHOSEN OF THE ANOINTED ONE.
ALL WILL HAVE ONE SHEPHERD
AND LIVE FOREVER IN HIS PEACE.

(LIGHTS out.)

Scene Three: *Opens at Stable (right side of platform) MYRIAM holding a new baby. References to He and We refer to the baby Yeshua.*

MUSICAL #4 — THROUGH ETERNITY

MYRIAM:

MY HEART REJOICES IN THE LORD
MY STRENGTH IS LIFTED HIGH.
THERE'S NO ONE HOLY LIKE THE LORD;
NO OTHER ROCK LIKE YOU!
THE LORD GOD KNOWS,
BY HIM DEEDS ARE WEIGHED.
THOSE WHO STUMBLED ARE ARMED WITH STRENGTH.
THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY SHALL FEAST AGAIN AND AGAIN.
THOSE HE HUMBLER, HE SETS ON HIGH.
HE REACHES OUT TO THOSE OF ETERNAL WORTH;
YOU AND I, THE MEEKEST OF HIS FAMILY ON EARTH.
WE HAVE HOPE.
WE LONG FOR HOME.
HE IS HOPE.
HE IS OUR HOME.
WE INHERIT THRONES OF HONOR,
FOR WHEN WE ARE HIS,
WE ARE GOD'S OWN CHILDREN
HERE ON EARTH
AND THROUGH ETERNITY.

(LIGHTS shine on the other side where JAMIS just drops from window to meet BENJAMIN.)

JAMIS: Well, you ready?

BENJAMIN: Kind of.

JAMIS: What do you mean, kind of?

BENJAMIN: Well...

(looks around)

I still don't like that crazy man – graveyard thing.

JAMIS: Oh, you Big Chicken – Don't worry, we got our slings and there are plenty of stones. We'll be all right.

BENJAMIN: Shhh – what's that?

JAMIS: It sounds; like a...

JAMIS and BENJAMIN: Baby!

JAMIS: That Mrs. Nazareth must have had her baby.

BENJAMIN: Wow.

JAMIS: Let's slip in the back of the stable, and...you know, look at him. Just be quiet, we don't want to get caught. That Mr. Nazareth has a big mouth...he told my dad about the money.

BENJAMIN: Did you get...?

Jamis You'd better believe it...

(rubs backside)

...Oh well, you ready?

BENJAMIN: Let's go, it sure beats stoning crazy men.

(BOYS slip into back of stall. YESHUA is now in the manger.)

BENJAMIN: Pretty cute, for a baby, no?

JAMIS: Yeah – kind of – but I don't know if I ever saw a newborn too cute – all wrinkled up and stuff.

BENJAMIN: You know...

JAMIS: Look Benjamin – out the back window...the sky is lighting up...

(BOYS look for a few moments, as the LIGHTS brighten outside.)

BENJAMIN: That's weird.

JAMIS: You ain't kidding there.

BENJAMIN: What do you suppose it is?

JAMIS: Shh...listen.

SONG #5 — PRINCE OF PEACE

ANGELS: *(singing far off)*

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN
WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR
THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

BENJAMIN: This is really getting creepy.

JAMIS: You mean – more creepy than the graveyard.

BENJAMIN: Well, not quite.

(Suddenly SHEPHERDS come bursting through the stable door. ANGELS surround the stable.)

8 more pages to the end