

## The Last Shepherd Enhanced Christmas Concert©

**Theme:** A humorous look at the importance of tradition and traditional values as an integral and continuing component in the Christmas message. Ends with a strong Christian message. Useful for outreach, yet very relevant for church members as well.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Cast:** 15 or more, (including narrator). All actors except Mrs. McQueen would likely be, or be made up to appear as, teenagers. Mrs. McQueen would be, or would appear to be, an older person. Any of the actors may be male or female.

**Costumes:** All actors would wear regular leisure clothing. There would be shepherds costumes, beards, staff, slings for all actors who play shepherd roles

**Set:** One side of the set is used as drama begins, actors later move to the opposite side. The division is created only by subtle lighting, (see below). There might be a Christmas tree to indicate season, and possibly some wall signs to indicate a church building, otherwise the set is very plain.

**Lighting:** As action switches from the opening to the active side of stage, use lighting to make this move apparent to audience. Otherwise, use lighting very sparingly.

**Sound:** Regular

**Script:**

Frank: Hi, Florence, what cha up to?

Florence: Five foot seven.

Frank: All right, big yuk! OK, really, what are you doing here at church?

Florence: Heard the bank was giving out free samples. I rushed right over. Turns out it's the blood bank. *(heavy accent)* My name is Count Dracula!  
*(eerie laugh)*

Frank: What gives with you and the lousy jokes?

Florence: Lousy jokes? Why I'll have you know I am proud of my lousy jokes!  
And I'll have you know someone likes my lousy jokes!

Frank: Too bad the someone has to be you.

Florence: No, my mother actually.

Frank: She'd be used to jokes, she had to live with you, didn't she?

Florence: You know, I don't have to stand here and listen to your rude remarks about my jokes.

*Florence starts to skip*

Frank: OK, so what are you doing now?

Florence: Like I told you, I don't have to stand here, so I'm not, I'm skipping here.

Frank: You know, there's one thing I like about your humor.

Florence: Really? Great! What's that?

Frank: I have no idea, but somewhere there must be something I like about your humor!

Florence, (*Jack Benny method*): Now, cut that out!

*Ralph comes on stage*

Frank: Oh hi, Ralph, good to see you. I know it's dangerous to ask this question, and I'll probably regret it, but what brings you to church today?

Ralph: Well in case you forget, it is our youth group meeting tonight. I'm just out for a few laughs.

Florence: Have I got a deal for you! Did you hear the one about the grizzly and the chiropractor?

Frank: Yes, Florence, Ralph, and everyone else in the world, has heard the one about the grizzly and the chiropractor!

Ralph: Wait a minute, Frank, I don't think I have heard that one. Tell me the one about the grizzly and the chiropractor, Florence.

Florence: Grizzly's got a sore back, goes to see the chiropractor. Chiropractor tries everything. Grizzly's back is still no better. Finally, chiropractor says, "Sorry, I have to admit, there's nothing I can do for you." Grizzly says, "But Doc, how am I supposed to live with this bad back?" Doc, says, are you ready for this . . . . .

Florence and Frank *together*: Your just gonna hafta "grin and bear it!"

Florence: Do ya get it? “Bear it!” Grizzly. “Bear it.” Get it?

Frank: I tried to warn you, you just wouldn’t listen, would you?

Ralph: But I will know better for next time. You guys hear about the Christmas concert the church is planning this year?

Florence: Let’s see, the Christmas Concert the church is planning this year . . . .  
No, can’t say as I’ve heard that one. Wait, does it have something to do with three snakes and a bobcat?

Ralph: I’m not talking some of your crummy jokes here! I mean, (*emphasize*) the church is going to have a Christmas concert. Have you guys heard anything about it?

Florence: No, not really. But then, we always have a Christmas Concert at church at Christmas, so it’s not really late-breaking news.

*Teresa and Nancy come on stage*

Ralph: Teresa, hi Nancy.

Teresa: Hi Ralph. Frank. Florence.

Nancy: You guys here to sign up?

Frank: For the foreign legion? Can’t. Fallen arches.

Florence: I think that only counts if you are serving in Greece.

Teresa: The church Christmas concert.

Florence: Hadn’t planned on it. Actually hadn’t heard of it until five minutes ago, and then only thanks to Ralph here. Why do you suppose they didn’t contact me about one of the roles?

Frank: Probably remember your last acting masterpiece!

Florence: I resent that!

Nancy: As I recall, so did everyone in the audience!

Ralph: Will you guys quit your clowning around? I think it would be kind of nice to get involved in this play.

Frank: Wonder what the play is all about?

Teresa: Well, just so long as it isn't another crummy "while shepherds watched their flocks by night" thing!

Ralph: You got that right! Seems like every year, same thing, shepherds!

Florence: Those rocket scientists that write these things sure show some originality, don't they!

Nancy: Well, the concert is what we are here to find out about, why don't all of you come along? *(checks her watch)* Look at the time, we're late, come on you guys!

Frank: OK, I'll go, but one word about shepherds and I'm history!

Teresa: That makes two of us!

*All actors move to opposite side of stage, take seats. Mrs. McQueen comes on stage, followed by a group of others.*

Mrs McQ: Hi, Nancy, Teresa, glad to see you've brought some recruits along! We will need everyone for this project!

Frank: You maybe didn't notice that Florence was here as well!

Mrs. McQ: We can work something out there. I know, we need a tree, Florence can be the tree!

Florence: What gives with you guys?

Mrs: McQ: We are joking, Florence! Joking! Actually, I thought you did a good job of portraying a butterfly last year.

Teresa: Which isn't bad, except that she was supposed to be a kitten!

Florence: No one seems to understand my reconstructive characterization methodology!

Frank: Or your English!

Mrs. McQ: I'd like you to meet the person who wrote the script for our Christmas concert play. Tom, would you care to come up and introduce your play to us?

*Tom comes to the front*

Tom: Thanks, Mrs. McQueen. The play I wrote is called “The Last Shepherd-Enhanced Christmas Concert”. In this play we prepare people in our congregations for life in the new millennium, for Christmas concerts without shepherds and stars and . . .

Fred: Hey, time out here! Shepherds, that’s one thing. But stars? I don’t think so Tim!

Tom: That’s Tom.

Fred: Tim - Tom, whatever! You can’t just wander in here and say, “OK, that’s it! No more shepherds! No more stars!” Why people would . . .

Nancy: Revolt is what they’d do! And over what? Shepherds, that’s what!

Ralph: Just what, what, . . . fresh air inspector, came up with this idea for a . . .

Tom: Shepherd-free Christmas concert?

Ralph: Right! Shepherd-free Christmas concert. What right does some turkey have to, just like that, on his own, just eliminate shepherds from Christmas concerts?

Mrs. McQ: We have done a lot of thinking about this, we even formed a committee, which we call “the International Interdenominational Standing Committee on Christmas Pageant Realignment, Reshapement and Refocusing Trends and Techniques for Politically Correct Worship Enhancement and Revitalization”, and they, well, they came up with a recommendation that this, being a new millennium, would be the final year for portraying shepherds in our Christmas concerts.

Elsa: You mean like we will never see shepherds at Christmas concerts ever again?

Tom: That is correct. The feeling in the committee was that the use of shepherds in the Christmas concert was redundant and over-done.

Tara: Does the pastor know about this? I mean, this sounds very radical!

Ralph: Shepherds and Christmas concerts, . . . I mean, they go together like . . . .

Nancy: . . . . like . . . . well, like shepherds and Christmas concerts, that’s what!

Mrs. McQ: I have to admit, I’m somewhat taken back by your reaction to this change in content. I honestly thought you guys would gag if we suggested having shepherds again this year. Come on, be honest! I am sure that each one of

you has, at one time or another, have said, “look, there better not be another crummy ‘while shepherds watched their flocks by night’ thing!”

Teresa: Well, maybe, once or twice, years ago, when I was a kid, I mean . . .

Ralph: But, Teresa, didn’t you just say that . . . .

Teresa: Put a sock on it, Ralph! Sit!

Nancy: I don’t get it! I mean . . . .

Florence: Hey this is pretty far out! I mean, I even played a shepherd! Twice, matter of fact!

Teresa: And if Christmas concerts can work even with Florence’s characterization, well, I mean . . . . ., well, that just proves it, that’s all!

Mrs.McQ: Tom, we should get your script photocopied so everyone has a copy to take home with them. Why don’t you come with me to the church office and we’ll run off copies for everyone? While we are gone, you guys can talk it out, but we are pretty much fixed on a “shepherd-free” concert after this year!

*Mrs. McQ and Tom leave stage*

Frank: Do you believe these people? “The Last Shepherd-Enhanced Christmas Concert.”

Nancy: Look, there’s gotta be some mistake! I mean . . . .

Elsa: You heard Mrs. McQueen, she seemed very adamant, the way of the future is shepherd-free!

Teresa: Look, there’s simply gotta be something we can do to change their minds, I mean . .

Ed: I’ve got a theory! I think Mrs. McQueen is pulling a fast one on us! I think it’s all a joke!

Ralph: Right, Ed! Need I remind you this is Mrs. McQueen we are talking about. Hello! Mrs. McQueen, joking?

Teresa: Mrs. McQueen, the joker? Ahhhh, no!

Florence: Besides, she’s old! Must be, wohoaa, old!

Frank: This, my friends, calls for decisive action!

*All turn, stare at Frank, say:* What did you just say?

Frank: Always wanted to say that. Never had an opportunity up until now.

Elsa: Probably best if you'd let the opportunity go by.

Tara: OK, Frank, I'll bite. What kind of, uhh, decisive action did you have in mind?

Frank: Thought you'd never ask. As I see it, boys and girls, . . . .

Ralph: "Boys and girls?" Somebody give me a hand, I say we dump him in the zoo. Should increase the IQ level in both places!

Frank: Fine, don't want to hear the solution to your problem, no sweat!

Fred: Maybe we could . . . Nah, that wouldn't work.

Tara: OK, here's the plan. When Mrs. McQueen and Tom come back we're gonna say, look, I think you're wrong. We believe that it would be a mistake to . . . .

Nancy: Earth to Tara! Hello! Look, this isn't just an idea that's just fallen off some turnip truck! You heard Mrs. McQueen. They had a committee, the International Intercultural International Committee on Standing Still . . . . or whatever it was. I mean, no way some group like that's ever gonna listen to reason. Gotta be, . . . . well, inventive, that's what.

Frank: Which seems to kinda get back to my comment of . . .

Elsa: Oh, all right! Let's hear him out you guys!

Ralph: But this is Frank! He's never had a good idea in his whole life!

Tara: Who knows? Maybe he's been storing up stuff all this time.

*The balance of this script is available at no charge to DramaShare members*