Overture (Joy to the World)





(Scene opens with a group of kids in a room in the church basement.)

ELLA: OK, so is it just me, or does this Christmas party seem to get a little earlier every year?

SILAS: Hey, that's fine by me. Look, gonna have some candy, hot chocolate, games . . . I don't see the problem. I say, "fa la la la la, bring it on!"

(Everyone laughs)

TILLIE: Yes, you're right about that part. I mean, I'm all about the party, but it just seems like the earlier we start celebrating, the longer we have to wait till Christmas.

TRE: Yeah, I get it. My mom starts decorating the day after Halloween.

CARSON: Halloween?

TRE: Yeah, she takes the candles out of the pumpkins . . . puts them in the window . . . and we're off!

(Children join in laughter)

CARSON: Miss Joley! You're here!

MISS JOLEY (walks in late): Hey kids! I'm sorry I'm a little late. I was trying to find the box of lights we used on the tree last year.

SILAS: And the year before that.

ELLA: And the year before that!

(Everyone laughs together)

MISS JOLEY: Well, yes, I suppose you're right, but oh my. I try so hard to make this party different each year.

(Music begins)

TILLIE: It's OK, Miss Joley. We ALWAYS look forward to it.

TRE: Yeah . . . even if it IS the same every year.

Old, Old Story





call

out_

to

an

an









MISS JOLEY: Well, OK. Before we get this "same old party" started, I meant to ask, what was everyone laughing about when I walked in? It sounded like you were talking about pumpkins?

(Snickers and giggles)

TILLIE: Uh yes, we were talking about how hard it is waiting for Christmas to get here.

MISS JOLEY: OK. *(Laughs)* Not quite sure what that has to do with pumpkins, but, you know . . . I do get the waiting part. When I know something is coming, I just want it to hurry up and get here.

ELLA: Yeah, me too.

MISS JOLEY: But when you think about it, waiting has always been a part of Christmas.

TRE: What do you mean?

MISS JOLEY: Well, way back in the Old Testament, God told the prophets a Redeemer was coming, but they had to wait about 700 years.

TILLIE: OK, that's a long, long time.

MISS JOLEY: And if you remember in the Christmas story, the angel told Mary she was going to have a baby and she had to wait too. But for her, it wasn't just the waiting, but the wondering.

ELLA: I'm not sure I'm following you.

MISS JOLEY: Well, there was so much she didn't know. The angel told her it was going to be a boy . . . even that His Name would be called Jesus, but she didn't know exactly when He would be born . . . and she certainly would never have dreamed a manger would be His first bed.

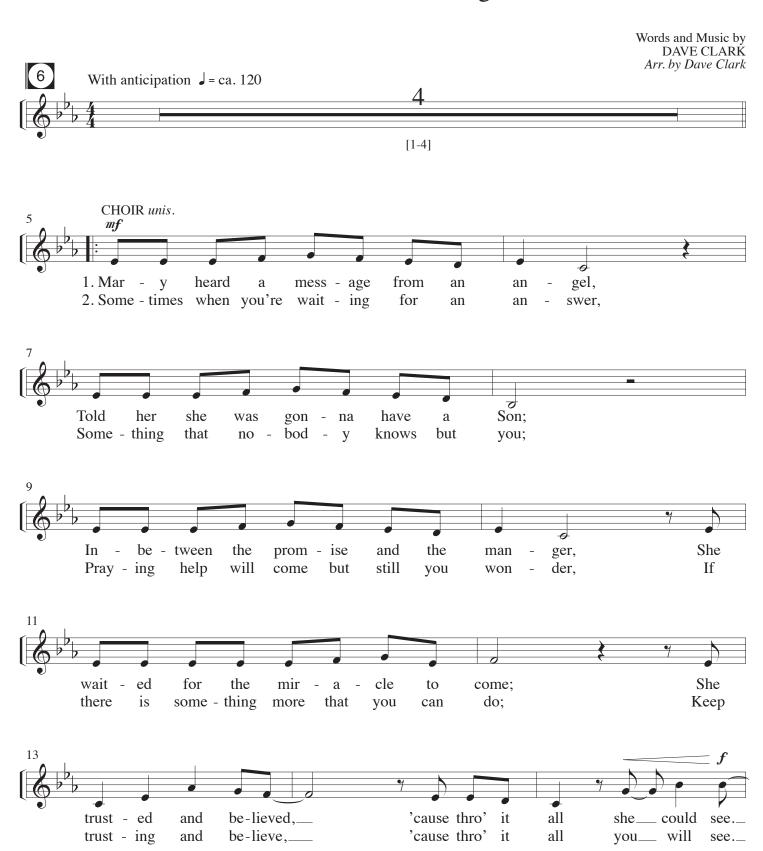
TILLIE: She must have had a whole lot of questions.

MISS JOLEY: I'm sure she did, but she also had a whole lot of faith.

ELLA: So what exactly did she do while she was waiting and wondering?

MISS JOLEY: The Bible doesn't tell us everything she did, (*music begins*) but we do know that even as she waited, God waited with her.

Even in the Waiting

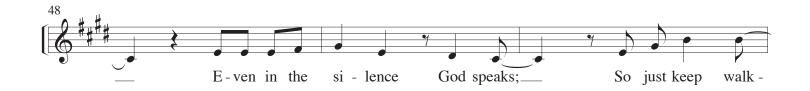


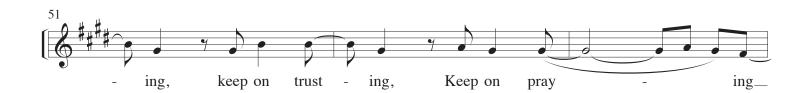














SILAS: Speaking of waiting . . . those Christmas games aren't going to play themselves!

(Lots of laughs)

MISS JOLEY: You're right! Since you kids seem to think this party is **so** predictable, you tell me. What are we doing next?

ELLA: Hmm . . . let me guess . . . we're going to draw names?

MISS JOLEY: Why, yes! How did you ever guess? That's correct. For our gift exchange, we're going to draw names out of this . . . uh . . . um . . . this pumpkin?

TRE: Hey, it was all I could find!

SILAS: Hmm, my mom must have been here!

(Everyone laughs)

MISS JOLEY: It's OK. I'm sure a pumpkin will work just fine. Ella? Why don't you go first?

ELLA: Let's see. I drew "Tree".

MISS JOLEY: "Tree"? Are you sure that's what it says?

ELLA: Yup! T-R-E! "Tree!"

MISS JOLEY: I think that's actually pronounced Tre. So, tell us Tre. Is there a story behind your name?

TRE: Well, to start with, my real name isn't Tre, it's Robert. But everyone just calls me Tre to make it simple.

ELLA: What? How is Tre simple for Robert?

TRE: Because my father and I have the same name.

ELLA: So, is his name Tre or Robert?

TRE: No, it's Junior!

(A sudden eruption of laughs)

CARSON (confused): OK . . .

TRE: Because he has the same name as my grandfather.

SILAS: I'm afraid to ask . . . so, is your grandfather's name Junior too?

TRE: No, his name is Robert. (*Pause*) But everyone calls him Bob. (*Laughter*) So, that's why they call me Tre.

SILAS: Uh, yes ... just to ...

ALL (help finish the sentence): ... make it simple! (Laughter)

MISS JOLEY: Moving on. Tre, you know how it works! You draw the next name. Let's see. And Tre drew Gloria! Oh, that's so beautiful. Gloria? Is there a story behind your name too?

GLORIA (a bit hesitant at first): Actually, there is but it's a little complicated.

SILAS (groans): Ugh! Here we go again. (laughter)

GLORIA: I'm not sure I know the whole story, but my parents call me their Christmas miracle.

ELLA: Is it because you were born in December?

GLORIA: No, my birthday is in October.

SILAS: Makes perfect sense to me.

(Lots of laughs)

MISS JOLEY: Now Silas, let her finish.

GLORIA: But there IS a story.

MISS JOLEY: Why don't you tell it to us?

GLORIA: Well... see, I was adopted. My parents had been praying and praying for a baby for a really long time when they heard about this place that helps people like them find kids like me.

MISS JOLEY: Oh, I like this already. Keep going, Gloria!

GLORIA: To make sure they were *really* ready, they had to fill out a lot of papers and answer a whole bunch of questions. Then they had to wait a long time too. One day a lady called them and my mom said it was her angel, and told them they were on a list with a whole bunch of other people.

CARSON: What kind of list?

GLORIA: The kind of list where you know you might get a baby, but you don't know exactly when, and you don't know if it's a boy or a girl, or even how old they will be.

TILLIE (anxiously): So, what happened next? Did your parents get a baby?

SILAS *(sarcastically)*: Of course they got a baby! Why else would she be telling the story?

(Giggles all around)

GLORIA: Yes, Tillie, Silas is right. This is my story.

ELLA: OK, but what does this have to do with how you got your name?

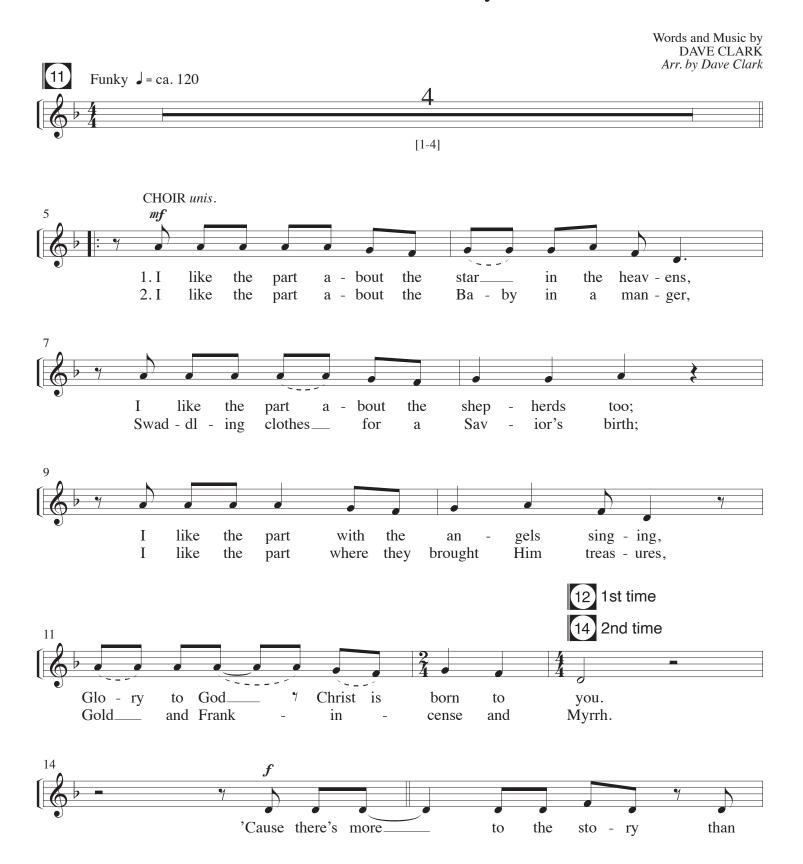
GLORIA: I'm getting there. I told you it was kinda complicated.

CARSON: And I'm kinda hungry. How 'bout we take a cake break?

(Silly laughs)

MISS JOLEY: I suppose it wouldn't hurt to stop for some refreshments, and then we'll let Gloria finish her story. And just like the Christmas story, *(music begins)* I have a feeling the best part is still to come.

More to the Story













MISS JOLEY: OK, so back to your story Gloria.

(By this point, all the kids have started to circle around GLORIA to listen.)

GLORIA: Well, it was in the springtime when my parents finally got the call they had been praying for from their angel.

TILLIE: Wait, so angels use telephones?

(Laughter fills the room)

SILAS: It sounds like this one did!

GLORIA: She told them she had some really good news that they had been matched with a birth mother and that it looked like they might finally get the baby they had prayed for. You can imagine how excited they were. But the lady said the baby wasn't even born yet and when the time *did* come, they would have to go to another city where the baby was going be born.

TRE: So, I have a question. If you weren't born yet, how do you know so much about what happened?

GLORIA: Because at our house every year at Christmas, part of our tradition is that before we decorate the tree, my parents tell me the story again.

SILAS: That's great! But I'm still trying to figure out what all this has to do with your name.

MISS JOLEY: Oh, I think she's getting there.

GLORIA: Because my parents didn't know how long they would have to wait, they tried to keep things as normal as they could. But they said it was really all they could think about. They bought stuff for my room and tried to get it ready, but mainly what they did was just wait.

SILAS: The name! What about the name?

GLORIA: OK, well, a long time went by until it was almost Christmas when they finally got the call that it was time. My mother likes to say they traveled to a city they had never been to meet a baby they had never seen. But they loved me before they even knew me!

SILAS: The name?

(His sarcasm earns another laugh from the group)

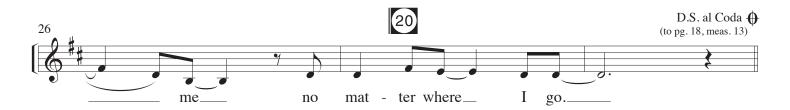
GLORIA: I told you how long my parents had prayed for a baby. It was Christmas morning when they held me for the very first time. *(Music begins)* They were so thankful, they named me Gloria because it means "Glory to God". And **that's** the story behind my name.

He Knows My Name

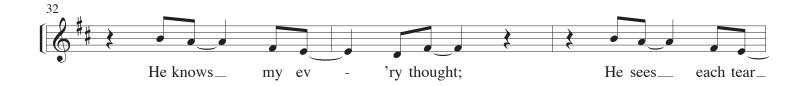
















SILAS: Hey, isn't this when we usually read the Christmas story?

MISS JOLEY: It is, but I think we've already got a pretty good start on it. Don't you?

SILAS: You mean the adoption story?

MISS JOLEY: Well, in many ways, the Christmas story IS an adoption story.

ELLA: You mean because of the waiting?

SILAS: And the wonder?

TILLIE: And the angel?

TRE: Or the call?

MISS JOLEY: I guess you could say there's some truth in all those things, but what I was really thinking was just how far Gloria's parents went to adopt her. To bring light into her darkness . . . and to make her forever family. And that's what Jesus did for us!

TILLIE: That's just beautiful.

MISS JOLEY: And just because Gloria has a story of adoption and you don't . . . the good news is that you can! When you ask Jesus to come into your heart, He adopts you as His child and you are forever family.

CARSON: I think I'm starting to understand.

ELLA: I think we're all starting to understand.

(Music begins)

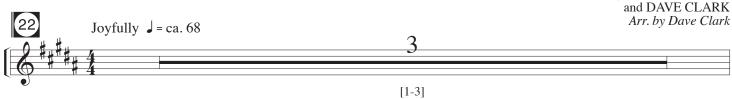
SILAS: Hey, we said we wanted a different kind of Christmas party this year.

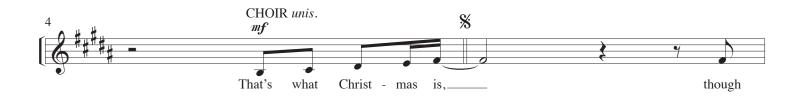
TILLIE: This is one we'll never ever forget.

That's What Christmas Is

with
Joy to the World

Words and Music by JIM BRADY, MELISSA BRADY and DAVE CLARK Arr. by Dave Clark

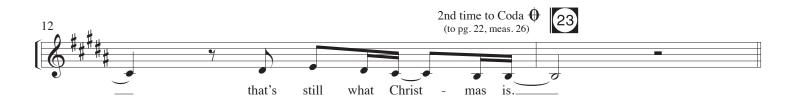






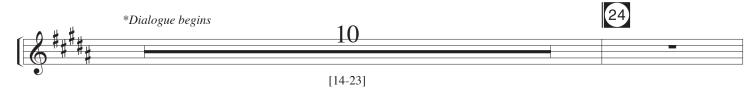






Copyright © 2019 and this arrangement © 2025 Brady House Publishing (BMI) (adm. at CapitolCMGPublishing.com) / Shakertown Road Music (BMI) (admin. by Music Services). All rights reserved. Used by permission.





*GLORIA: And she shall bring forth a Son and thou shall call His Name Jesus.

SILAS: For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given.

ELLA: And the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His Name shall be called . . .

CARSON: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

TILLIE: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

TRE: That whosever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life.

MISS JOLEY: And that's what Christmas is.



Old, Old Story (Reprise)

