

GREAT JOY FOR ALL—SCENE: HEAVEN

GABRIEL enters, reading out loud from a scroll or piece of paper, practicing what they're going to say.

GABRIEL: "Do not be afraid!" Too loud? "Do not be afraid." No, too quiet. "Have no fear!" That sounds so formal. But maybe formal is the way to go? "Have no fear--"

CLARENCE comes rushing in, carrying an armful of "stuff" -- it can be a clipboard, stack of papers, any random props that are light but look bulky. Just make them look overwhelmed and busy. Their entrance interrupts GABRIEL.

CLARENCE, checking a list: Okay, let's see. Polish halo, check. Brush wings, check. Appear to world leaders to discuss peace talks ... (looking stressed) Maybe that one is for tomorrow.

GABRIEL: Clarence, what in the universe are you up to?

CLARENCE: Made a list, checking it twice! There's just so many people to help.

GABRIEL: You know you can't do everything, right?

CLARENCE: Of course we can! We're angels!

GABRIEL: That doesn't mean you're invincible. You've got to slow down or you'll burn out.

CLARENCE: I know, but have you seen Earth lately? It's a real mess.

GABRIEL: It's not our job to fix that.

CLARENCE: But I want to help!

GABRIEL: If you need to help so badly, come with me.

CLARENCE: What's the mission this time?

GABRIEL: There's a baby about to be born.

CLARENCE: Why do they need an angel?

GABRIEL: This isn't any ordinary baby. This baby is going to change the world.

CLARENCE: Every baby changes the world.

GABRIEL: That's true, but this one is extra special.

CLARENCE: Why?

GABRIEL: Because the baby is God's son.

CLARENCE: Well, why didn't you say so! Let's get going!

The ANGELS hurriedly make their way offstage.

Musical Transition

ELW 254, Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, verses 1 and 2

or

ELW 289, Angels We Have Heard on High, verse 1