

CONTENTMENT CALAMITY

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This is a smaller scale production of the same play. No stage setup is required and the actors do not need to memorize any lines. It is a very effective way for smaller churches or schools to be able to put on a nice Christmas program.

Sample

'Twas the night before Christmas and creeping about....

was a

CONTENTMENT CALAMITY

within and without!

Setting:

This play takes place one extremely cold December in the little town of Plainsview.

Plot:

This play is a comical comparison between two Christian families with very different perspectives about contentment. The Darby's are faithful to church, generous givers and active in service, however, inside their home we uncover seeds of discontentment lurking at every turn. The Bloomfield's are a middle class family who outwardly are struggling, but have learned the secret to true joy and contentment. Happiness is not something that can only be possessed when life is going good, but can be accessed through Christ at any stage of life.

Characters:

1. Mr. Thomas Darby – wealthy businessman and father
2. Mrs. Lucille Darby – beautiful mother of two who has a complaining nature
3. Gilbert Darby – 12-year-old son who is very sarcastic
4. Paige Darby – 9-year-old daughter
5. Mr. Kenneth Bloomfield – father who is struggling to provide for his family, while keeping his trust in God
6. Mrs. Darlene Bloomfield – loving mother who graciously supports and cares for her family
7. Summer Bloomfield – 10-year-old daughter
8. Samantha ("Sammy") Bloomfield – 8-year-old daughter
9. Drew Bloomfield – 7-year-old son
10. Preacher
11. Extras (at least three) – to be used as church members and the Darby's visiting relatives

Props:

Scene One

1. Center stage set up for a church service (chairs, podium, offering plates)
2. Drew's artwork (with cotton ball snow)

Scene Two

1. Two living rooms set up on each side of the stage (couch, Christmas tree)
2. Five candles & matches
3. Sleeping bags & pillows

4. Marshmallows & Graham crackers
5. Skewers to toast marshmallows

Scene Three

1. Pretend snow & snowballs
2. Trees for outside
3. Coats for each child
4. Wrapped present with a blender inside

Scene Four

1. Table and five chairs
2. Dishes for soup and biscuits
3. “Soup” and biscuits

Scene Five

1. Wrapped present with video games inside
2. Red bicycle with big ribbon
3. Opened gifts to be spread around the Bloomfield's house
4. Bible

Scene Six

1. Wrapped present with blender inside
2. Cups filled with “milkshakes” for the Bloomfield's

Recommended Stage Setup

<i>Bloomfield's House</i>	<i>Church / Outdoor Scenes</i>	<i>Darby's House</i>
<i>Children's Choir</i>		

Estimated Length: 55 minutes

Choir - Christmas Commotion Medley

SCENE ONE

(Scene takes place at center stage. Setting is the close of a Sunday morning church service.)

Preacher ...and so, my fellow parishioners, with this Christmas season upon us, may we be ever mindful of what we are really celebrating. It's not about the fancy trees, or glittering lights, or all the presents wrapped so neatly under the tree, but rather we remember the birth of a Savior who came to this earth to save sinners. May we not forget. May we not forget! *(brief pause; close Bible)* As you leave the building today, remember the offering plates at the back are collecting funds to be sent to the Schwartz family, who have some special needs this Christmas. Please give generously. You are dismissed.

(Parishioners stand up and greet one another as they leave. Many drop money into the offering plates. Organ plays quietly in background.)

Mrs. Darby Well, good morning, Darlene. And where will your family be spending Christmas this year?

Mrs. Bloomfield We'll be staying right here at home in Plainsview this holiday - a nice quiet Christmas with just the five of us. And what about your family?

Mrs. Darby Unfortunately, we're stuck here, too. I keep telling my husband I want to take off and go somewhere warm for Christmas. But there's always some excuse. It's too expensive...he has to work...the kids Christmas programs conflict...and this year all his family is coming here. Can you believe it? I'm going to be hosting dinner for 27 people! Sounds relaxing, doesn't it?

Mrs. Bloomfield Oh, it's wonderful to have family around for the holidays. Unfortunately, our families just live too far away and our parents are getting up in age and don't like to drive long distances. Plus, Ken hasn't been getting very many hours at work and so finances are kind of tight for us to be able to go and see them. So, we decided that a nice Christmas at home would be just fine.

(Mr. Bloomfield joins his wife.)

Mr. Bloomfield Merry Christmas, Mrs. Darby. Isn't it nice to see snow covering the ground? My kids have been praying for a white Christmas.

Mrs. Darby Yes, mine have, too. Of course, it usually means more work for me since they keep tracking snow onto my kitchen floor.

(Mr. Darby calls from offstage.)

Mr. Darby Lucille, I've got the car warmed up and ready to go. Are you coming?

Mrs. Darby Well, I better get going. Tom's outside waiting for me. You folks have a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield You too, Mrs. Darby. Say 'hi' to Tom and the kids.

(Mrs. Darby exits. Summer, Sammy, and Drew join their parents at center stage.)

Drew Mommy, look what I made in Junior Church today!

Mrs. Bloomfield Oh Drew, that's wonderful! You're such a little artist.

Summer What is it, Drew?

Sammy It looks like pretend snow.

Drew It is. Our teacher said that when we look outside and see the snow it can help remind us that when Jesus comes into our hearts, He can make them white as snow.

Summer Hey, we learned a verse about that today, too. Only our teacher said that Jesus can take our hearts and make them *whiter* than snow.

Sammy *Whiter* than snow! That's silly. I can't think of anything that's *whiter* than snow.

Choir - Whiter Than the Whitest Snow

SCENE TWO

(While choir sings, center stage is cleared. Lights shine on left stage where the Bloomfield's are relaxing at home.)

Summer I just love Christmas! I love snowflakes and jingle bells and candy canes and Christmas carols and.....

Mr. Bloomfield OK, I think we get the idea, Summer.

Sammy I love sledding and grandma's fudge and putting up the Christmas tree and ...

Mrs. Bloomfield Samantha, not you too.

Drew (giggling) Well, I love s'mores and sleeping bags and telling stories around the campfire and falling asleep to the sound

of crickets.

(Whole family laughs.)

Mr. Bloomfield Drew, you'd think it was the middle of July the way you're talking - not Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Bloomfield (pretending to shiver) And the coldest Christmas Eve since 1972. I sure am thankful we're not out camping in this weather.

(Suddenly a loud crash is heard outside and all the lights go down.)

Sammy What was that, mommy?

Mrs. Bloomfield I don't know, dear. But I'm going to go and get some flashlights and candles while your dad figures it out. Can you come and help?

Sammy Sure, but I can't see a thing.

Summer Hold my hand, Sammy. I'm coming, too.

(All three girls head offstage.)

Mr. Bloomfield I'll go check outside and see what happened. Do you want to come with me, Drew?

Drew I'm right behind you, dad.

(Boys exit offstage.)

Mrs. Bloomfield (from offstage) I think I found something, girls - a whole box of candles.

Summer And here's a box of matches I found.

Mrs. Bloomfield Great work! Let's see if we can't get some light.

(Girls enter living room and Mrs. Bloomfield lights several candles. Stage lights come up dimly. Scene shifts over to right stage where the Darby's have also lost electricity.)

Mrs. Darby Oh, great! Now this is just what I needed to happen on Christmas Eve. It just isn't enough that I have to be stuck in Plainsview in December. Or that I have 23 of my beloved in-laws coming over for dinner tomorrow. Or that I had to do all the Christmas shopping for those 23 beloved relatives all by myself. Why does God hate me?

Mr. Darby Settle down, Lucy. It's not a walk in the park for me either. Who do you think pays for all those presents you bought. Or all that food! You'd think we invited 123 people over for dinner tomorrow. And on top of that, have you seen our

utility bill this month? Do you know what it costs to heat this place? And now this! I'll probably get stuck with another bill to repair whatever it is that caused our power to go off.

Paige (whining) I'm hungry. I want a pizza.

Gilbert Yeah, me too. I'm starving. Can we please have something to eat?

Mrs. Darby Kids, I can't take this right now. How do you think I'm supposed to make you a pizza when I have no electricity? If you want something to eat, get it yourself.

(Lights remains dimly lit on the Darby's, but attention is turned back to the Bloomfield's. Mr. Bloomfield and Drew come back inside.)

Mr. Bloomfield Well, it looks like one of our trees fell over and must have hit a power line. No telling how long it will take them to repair it, being Christmas Eve and all.

Mrs. Bloomfield It looks like Drew is going to get his wish of camping out in December. Why don't we get the sleeping bags and bring them into the living room?

Drew (excitedly) Do you mean we get to camp out in here tonight?

Summer And we could pretend the candles are a great big, warm campfire.

Sammy And what about s'mores? No camping trip is complete without s'mores.

Mrs. Bloomfield I think I might be able to muster up some chocolate and marshmallows. (exits offstage)

Mr. Bloomfield That sounds great! Who ever thought we'd be camping in December?

Drew Maybe it's God's special present to me on Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield Maybe, Drew.

(Scene shifts to the Darby's on right stage.)

Paige But mom, I only know how to make peanut butter sandwiches and I don't even like those.

Mrs. Darby Well, peanut butter is what's on the menu tonight. So get cooking.

Gilbert (pretending to be a news anchor) We now tune in to Chef Paige Darby. And what will she be cooking up for us this fine evening? (hold out pretend microphone)

Paige Leave me alone, Gilbert.

Gilbert Ah, her famous peanut butter sandwich. And watch how gracefully she spreads the peanut butter onto the bread. Tune in next week to watch her tackle pouring a glass of milk.

Mr. Darby OK, that's enough! We have enough problems without adding your squabbling to the mix.

(Scene shifts back to the Bloomfield's.)

Mrs. Bloomfield (enters with ingredients for s'mores) Here you go kids. Let's make s'mores.

Mr. Bloomfield Everyone get a candle.

(Family begins toasting s'mores over their candles.)

Summer (pretending) This is the biggest campfire you've ever made before, dad.

Drew It's so bright and warm.

Sammy And the sound of crickets and bullfrogs in the woods. Aaah!

Mrs. Bloomfield We'd better watch out for bears.

Mr. Bloomfield Good thing we have the adventurous Drew Bloomfield here to protect us all.

Drew Don't worry everyone. I'll be on the look-out.

(Scene shifts back to the Darby's.)

Mrs. Darby I told you we should have gone to Florida this Christmas. Didn't I tell you? Oh, I just hate this weather!

Gilbert So, why couldn't we go to Florida, dad? It sure would have been better than being stuck in boring Plainsview with no electricity.

Paige Hey, I'd even be willing to stay here if we sent Gilbert to Florida.

Gilbert Ha, ha, ha. A professional chef AND a comedian.

Mr. Darby I told you, Lucille, we can't afford to go to Florida. Besides, I don't have anymore vacation until next summer.

(Scene shifts.)

Sammy This is so much fun. We should do this every year.

Summer I'm so thankful for our warm, cuddly sleeping bags on a night like tonight.

Drew And I'm thankful that mommy had a box of candles.

(Scene shifts.)

Paige You mean we're stuck in this freezing weather all winter long?

Gilbert Florida. One day I'll move to Florida.

(Scene shifts.)

Mrs. Bloomfield I'm thankful for my family and that we can all be together.

(Scene shifts.)

Mrs. Darby Oh, what am I going to do? Why does our *family* have to come over tomorrow?

(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Bloomfield Well, I'm thankful for God's provision.

(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Darby If my boss paid me a decent wage, I might be able to take this family on vacation.

(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Bloomfield And I'm thankful for good health.

(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Darby I'm getting a headache!

(Bloomfield's settle into their sleeping bags, while Darby's all pout.)

Choir - Perspective is Elective

SCENE THREE

(While choir is singing, center stage is set with pretend snow all over. Scene is Christmas morning at the Bloomfield's.)

Mrs. Bloomfield Good morning, kids. Merry Christmas!

Mr. Bloomfield Wake up sleepy heads. The power's back on this morning and we have lots to do today.

Drew (sleepily) Is it Christmas already or am I dreaming?

Summer Yes, Drew, it's Christmas! Let's get our coats on and go outside to make snow angels.

Sammy That sounds great, Summer! (looking outside) Besides, it looks like God gave us a fresh blanket of snow for Christmas.

Drew Wow! God's just giving us all kinds of presents this year!

Mrs. Bloomfield (calling after them) You kids bundle up. It's cold out there.
(Kids put their coats on and head outside.)

Mr. Bloomfield (lovingly) Merry Christmas, honey. (hands wife a present) I got you a little present.

Mrs. Bloomfield Oh, Ken, you didn't have to get me anything this year. I know money has been tight lately with your hours being cut at work. I wasn't expecting anything.

Mr. Bloomfield Well, it isn't the new refrigerator you've been wanting, but I wanted to get you something.
(Mrs. Bloomfield opens present to find a blender)

Mr. Bloomfield I noticed that our old one was broken.

Mrs. Bloomfield Thank you, dear. A blender is a great gift. Hey, maybe later on tonight we can make ice cream shakes.

Mr. Bloomfield That sounds terrific! You're such a good wife and mother.
(Scene shifts to the Darby household where Paige and Gilbert are running around.)

Mrs. Darby Would you kids knock it off? We have company coming in three hours and I've got to get this house cleaned up.

Mr. Darby Kids, why don't you give your mother a hand?

Paige Do we have to, dad? It's Christmas.

Mrs. Darby Actually, Tom, they'd probably be more help if they'd just go outside and play.

Mr. Darby Alright kids, you heard your mother. Go play outside for a while.

Gilbert OK, dad. Let's get our coats, Paige.

(Paige and Gilbert put coats on and hurry outside to where the Bloomfield kids are already playing.)

Sammy Hi, Gilbert. Hi, Paige. We're making snow angels.

Drew Do you guys want to play with us?

Paige Sure. I love playing in the snow.

Gilbert Yeah, me too. Do you want to have a snowball fight?

Summer (throwing a snowball) Sure, but you better run.

(Kids all go wild throwing snowballs everywhere.)

Gilbert Hey, this is no fair. It's three against two.

Drew That's not our problem.

Paige (out of breath) I call a truce. Agree?

Summer OK. Let's give them a break, guys.

(Kids all sit down in the snow.)

Paige So, what are you guys hoping to get for Christmas?

Summer Well, I asked for this new dress I saw at the store. But I know that my parents don't have a lot of money this year, so I don't know if I'll get it or not. How about you?

Paige I want a new bike. A red, Yamaha, 10-speed, with a basket and a bell. Oh, and a matching red helmet to go with it.

Sammy Wow! I asked for a bike, too. The one you want sounds pretty great. (pause; sadly) But I probably won't get that kind.

Drew I asked for more Legos. What about you, Gilbert?

Gilbert Well, there's this new set of video games out called "Termination of the Sloth's" that I really want. There are five games in the series and they come in this awesome carrying case. I gave my parents a picture of them so they wouldn't get mixed up.

Summer Those sound like some neat gifts. (pause) It's getting sort of cold out here.

Sammy I'm cold, too. Can we go inside?

Paige Yeah, I think I'm ready to go inside and warm up, too.

(Kids stand up and get ready to go inside.)

Drew Good luck with your Christmas gifts.

Gilbert You, too. See you guys later.

Piano - Christmas Commotion

SCENE FOUR

(While music plays, lights go down. Snow is swept center stage. Table is set at the Bloomfield's for Christmas dinner. Lights come up dimly on the Darby's, where relatives can be seen and heard arriving at the house. When the music is finished, lights come up on the Darby's.)

Relative #1 Lucy, everything just smells wonderful!

Relative #2 You always were such a wonderful little cook.

Relative #3 (patting belly) I haven't eaten for days, saving room for this big dinner.

Relative #2 What are we having to eat?

Mrs. Darby Well, I made ham, roast beef, baked potatoes, apple stuffing, cranberry Jell-O salad, and homemade dinner rolls.

Relative #2 That sounds fantastic.

Relative #1 And it sounds like you've been keeping very busy.

Mrs. Darby You have no idea.

Mr. Darby When is dinner going to be ready, dear?

Mrs. Darby It should be ready. Why don't you gather everyone and have them find a seat.

Mr. Darby (talking loudly to get everyone's attention) Well, we're so glad that you all could make it today. My wife says that dinner's ready. So why doesn't everyone come into the kitchen and find a chair. We'll have a word of prayer and then dig in.

(Family all heads toward the kitchen. Comments are heard about the wonderful food prepared. Scene shifts to the Bloomfield's who are sitting at the table.)

Mr. Bloomfield This soup is wonderful, darling.

Summer Yeah, mom, it's really good. I love the biscuits.

Mrs. Bloomfield We're certainly very blessed this Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield Yes, God is very good. You know, kids, not everyone gets a delicious meal on Christmas.

Drew They don't? How come?

Mr. Bloomfield Some countries are very poor and people don't have money for food. Sometimes people are very sick and can only eat simple foods. Some families don't have a mommy that can cook as well as yours. (Kids giggle.) But did you know that there is something far more valuable than physical food?

Summer What's that?

Mr. Bloomfield The food from God's Word.

Mrs. Bloomfield I was just reading the other day in First Peter. It says that just like our bodies need food to grow, our soul also needs food to grow.

Summer Our soul grows by reading the Bible and praying, right?

Mr. Bloomfield Very good. And depending on how much we have fellowship with God, our soul is either starving or feasting.

Drew I want both my stomach and my soul to have a feast this Christmas!

Choir - The Bible is a Feast for the Soul

SCENE FIVE

(While choir sings, stage is set for opening gifts in both households. Scene opens in the Darby's living room around the Christmas tree.)

Paige Daddy, can we please open our presents now? I've been waiting for 364 days! Come on already!

Mr. Darby What did you do, Paige? Make your Christmas wish list last New Years?

Paige Daddy, you know how long I've been waiting for a new bike. My bike's so old it still has the training wheels on it.

Gilbert (sarcastically) Maybe there's a reason for that!

Paige Be quiet, Gilbert! We all know what was on your Christmas list – a stuffed Barney doll and airplane sippy cups.

Mrs. Darby All right, you two. Cut it out. Let's *try* and enjoy these few moments together.

Mr. Darby I think you've waited long enough. We promised that after dinner, and after our company all went home, we'd open presents. So, it's time for presents!

Mrs. Darby Here you go, Gilbert. (Hands present to son.)

Gilbert (Opens present) Awesome! These are the exact video games I wanted. Thanks, guys.

Paige Now if only he was smarter than the wrapping paper, he'd actually be able to play them.

Mrs. Darby Paige. (Pause) And this present is for you. (Reaching behind the wall, she pulls out a new bike with a bright red ribbon.)

Paige Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you! I love it. How could you possibly have known that's what I wanted?

Mr. Darby Your subtle reminders these past 364 days helped a little.

Paige You're the best parents in the whole world. I love you very much!

(Lights fade on the Darby's. Attention is turned to the other side of the stage where the Bloomfield's are also gathered in their living room, before opening their gifts.)

Mr. Bloomfield (Reading from his Bible) "...not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound, every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Summer Daddy, that's a funny story to be reading on Christmas.

Drew Yeah, we usually read about baby Jesus on Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield And that's a good story, too. But I thought we'd read something different this year.

Mrs. Bloomfield Your dad and I thought that while we usually place a big emphasis on all the nice presents we want, it might be a good idea to talk about contentment.

Sammy Contentment? What's that?

Mr. Bloomfield That's a good question, Sammy. Contentment is being happy with what you already have instead of always wanting something else.

Mrs. Bloomfield Did you know that the story daddy was reading was written by a man named Paul? You've maybe learned about him at church.

Summer We learned in Sunday School that Paul was beaten, stoned and left to die.

Mr. Bloomfield Very good, Summer.

Drew I remember my teacher telling me that Paul lived in a tent.

Mr. Bloomfield Well, Paul was a tent maker, so he may have lived in a tent. Sammy, do you know anything else about Paul?

Sammy Didn't he get thrown in jail?

Mr. Bloomfield Not only did he get thrown in jail, but he sang songs while he was in there. Can you imagine anybody being happy in jail?

Mrs. Bloomfield Kids, Paul was content even though he was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, run out of town, thrown into jail, and possibly even living in a tent.

Drew Content in a tent. Hey, that rhymes.

Summer So, we should be content if we live in a mansion or a tent.

Sammy (sadly) And I should be content whether I ever get a new bike or have to keep riding my old one that's bent.

Mr. Bloomfield I'm proud of you kids. You have the idea exactly. This Christmas let's determine to be content in a tent.

Choir - Content in a Tent

SCENE SIX

(Scene is outside where the Darby and Bloomfield children are discussing their new gifts.)

Paige (showing off her new bike) Summer, Sammy, Drew! Look what I got for Christmas! Isn't it beautiful?

Sammy That's really nice, Paige. I'm glad you got what you wanted.

Paige What about you? Did you get a new bike?

Sammy No. But I got some really nice coloring books and some stickers that I wanted. They're really pretty.

Summer Gilbert, did you get the video games you asked for?

Gilbert Yeah! You guys will have to come over and play them with me sometime.

Drew That would be really fun.

Gilbert (talking to Summer and Drew) And what did you two get?

Summer Well, I got a new winter coat.

Drew And I got some Matchbox cars.

Gilbert (unimpressed) Oh! Well, I'm sorry you guys didn't get what you really wanted.

Summer That's OK. We decided that this Christmas, no matter what, we were going to be content.

Sammy That's right. I learned that I can be just as happy with a book of stickers or a new bike or even nothing at all.

Paige I don't think I could have been happy with just stickers.

Summer Sure you could have, Paige. You see, God can give you strength to be happy in any situation.

Drew Daddy told us the story of Paul in the Bible. Did you know that he was happy even in jail?

Gilbert What was wrong with him?

Sammy Nothing was wrong with him. God just helped make him realize that things couldn't make him happy.

Gilbert I'm pretty happy with my new video games.

Summer You may be happy right now, but I bet that in a year you won't even care about those games anymore.

Gilbert We'll have to wait and see about that. We'd better go inside now, Paige. Mom told us she wanted our beds made before lunch. (Gilbert heads inside.)

Paige I'll be right there, Gilbert. (talking to Sammy) Are you really *happy* with your new stickers and coloring books?

Sammy A new bike would have been really nice, but, yes, I am happy with the gifts I got.

Paige Well, if you ever want to ride my bike, I'll let you.

Summer That's very nice of you, Paige.

Paige Well, you're probably right. I could *choose* to be happy with or without my new bike. You just let me know when you want to ride it. I better go now. (leaves to go home)

Sammy See you later. Merry Christmas.

Drew Merry Christmas. Bye.

(Scene changes to the Darby's house.)

Mr. Darby Lucille, there is one more gift to open. I bought you something I think you'll like very much.

Mrs. Darby Oh, Tom, I thought you forgot. You really shouldn't have. (opening gift excitedly) What could it possibly be? There are so many things I've had my eye on. (After opening the gift, she pauses, then says with disgust) A blender! You bought me a blender?

Mr. Darby I know how much you like those fruit smoothies and I thought you could make your own.

Mrs. Darby A blender? Maybe a new set of pajamas or some new perfume or a night away from the kids or.....

Mr. Darby Lucy, I was just trying to be thoughtful. After all, you told me not to get you anything.

Mrs. Darby I always *tell* you not to get me anything. That doesn't mean, don't get me anything!

Mr. Darby I give up!

(Lights shine on Bloomfield's who are contentedly drinking milkshakes in their living room. Lights stay up on Darby's.)

Mrs. Darby (whining) Don't I deserve anything to make me happy?

Mr. Darby Of course you do, dear. I'm really sorry about the blender.

Mrs. Darby This has been a lousy Christmas. I cook and clean for weeks. We lose the power on Christmas Eve. It's freezing outside. And now this — a blender. I don't know any woman who would be happy with a blender.

Mr. Darby (dryly) Merry Christmas, honey.

Choir - Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

Reader's Theater Drama

Sample

Characters:

- 1. Narrator
- 2. Mr. Thomas Darby – wealthy businessman and father
- 3. Mrs. Lucille Darby – beautiful mother of two who has a complaining nature
- 4. Gilbert Darby – 12-year-old son who is very sarcastic
- 5. Paige Darby – 9-year-old daughter
- 6. Mr. Kenneth Bloomfield – father who is struggling to provide for his family, while keeping his trust in God
- 7. Mrs. Darlene Bloomfield – loving mother who graciously supports and cares for her family
- 8. Summer Bloomfield – 10-year-old daughter
- 9. Samantha (“Sammy”) Bloomfield – 8-year-old daughter
- 10. Drew Bloomfield – 7-year-old son

Props:

- 1. Ten stools for readers
- 2. Two wrapped Christmas packages with blenders inside

Recommended Stage Setup:

<i>Children’s Choir / Musicians</i>									
<i>Ken</i>	<i>Darlene</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>Sammy</i>	<i>Drew</i>	<i>Narrator</i>	<i>Paige</i>	<i>Gilbert</i>	<i>Lucy</i>	<i>Tom</i>

Music Options:

If a children's choir is unable to perform all of the songs, the following versions of music (listed below) are available. Adult choir, small ensemble, duets, or solos can be supplemented in place of the children's choir. Other version may be purchased at foreverbesure.com.

- 1. Christmas Commotion Medley – children or youth choir
- 2. Whiter Than the Whitest Snow – children’s choir, adult choir (SATB), solo, or duet
- 3. Perspective is Elective – children’s choir or small ensemble
- 4. The Bible is a Feast for the Soul – children’s choir, adult choir (SATB), solo, or duet
- 5. Content in a Tent – children’s choir or adult choir (SATB)
- 6. Christmas Commotion Reprise – children’s choir or all choirs combined

Estimated Length: 45 minutes

Song - Christmas Commotion Medley

- Narrator** “...and so, my fellow parishioners, with this Christmas season upon us, may we be ever mindful of what we are really celebrating. It’s not about the fancy trees, or glittering lights, or all the presents wrapped so neatly under the tree, but rather we remember the birth of a Savior who came to this earth to save sinners. May we not forget. May we not forget! You are dismissed.” With that, Pastor Mitchell closed the Sunday service and the parishioners filed eagerly out the door. There were excited rumblings in every corner of the sanctuary. Darlene Bloomfield could be heard eagerly discussing her families Christmas plans.
- Mrs. Bloomfield** We’ll be staying right here at home in Plainsview this holiday - a nice quiet Christmas with just the five of us. With Ken’s work schedule and the tighter finances, we decided it would be best to stay close to home. This will be the first Christmas spent with just our family. I’m really looking forward to it.
- Narrator** Others, like Lucille Darby, could be heard lamenting the looming tasks that lay ahead.
- Mrs. Darby** Can you believe it? I’m going to be hosting dinner for 27 people! Tom’s family is coming. I still have to clean the house, make guest beds, do my last minute gift shopping, and cook Christmas dinner. Sounds relaxing, doesn’t it?
- Narrator** Kenneth Bloomfield was relaying how Christmas always stirred up fond family memories.
- Mr. Bloomfield** When I was a boy, my dad and I would go out to the woods and cut down our own tree while mom stayed at home making her special shortbread cookies. Hopefully, this year our family will be making some new memories of our own.
- Narrator** Thomas Darby was wishing he could just get away from his family.
- Mr. Darby** I sure wish we could have gotten away this year to somewhere warm. Lucy keeps asking me to take our family to Florida, but it just seems to never work out. Instead, we have 27 relatives all coming to see us.
- Narrator** But, like it or not, Christmas had arrived. Snow was on the ground. Lights were strewn from the housetops. Jingle bells could be heard in every store. And children’s Christmas art was hung around the house.
- Drew** Mommy, look what I made in Junior Church.

Mrs. Bloomfield Oh, Drew, that's wonderful! You're such a little artist.

Summer What is it, Drew?

Sammy It looks like pretend snow.

Drew It is. Our teacher said that when we look outside and see the snow it can help remind us that when Jesus comes into our hearts, He can make them white as snow.

Summer Hey, we learned a verse about that today, too. Only our teacher said that Jesus can take our hearts and make them *whiter* than snow.

Sammy *Whiter* than snow? That's silly. I can't think of anything that's *whiter* than snow.

Song - Whiter Than the Whitest Snow

Narrator Even though this December was one of coldest on record in Plainsview, that couldn't stop the excitement of one ten-year-old girl. Summer Bloomfield loved everything that Christmas had to offer.

Summer I just love Christmas! I love snowflakes and jingle bells and candy canes and Christmas carols and....

Mr. Bloomfield OK, I think we get the idea, Summer.

Sammy I love sledding and grandma's fudge and putting up the Christmas tree and ...

Mrs. Bloomfield Samantha, not you too!

Drew (giggling) Well, I love s'mores and sleeping bags and telling stories around the campfire and falling asleep to the sound of crickets.

(Whole family laughs.)

Mr. Bloomfield Drew, you'd think it was the middle of July the way you're talking - not Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Bloomfield (pretending to shiver) And the coldest Christmas Eve since 1972. I sure am thankful we're not out camping in this weather.

(Suddenly a loud crash is heard off stage.)

Sammy What was that, mommy?

Mrs. Bloomfield I don't know, dear. But I'm going to go and get some candles while your dad figures it out. Will you come and help me?

Sammy Sure, but I can't see a thing.

Summer Hold my hand, Sammy. I'm coming, too.

Mr. Bloomfield I'll go check outside and see what happened. Do you want to come with me, Drew?

Drew I'm right behind you, dad.

Narrator As Drew and his father headed outside, they discovered a tree had fallen onto the power line. Both the Bloomfield's and the Darby's were without power on Christmas Eve. It seemed more than one family could handle.

Mrs. Darby Oh, great! Now this is just what I needed to happen on Christmas Eve. It just isn't enough that I have to be stuck in Plainsview in December. Or that I have a herd of my beloved in-laws coming over for dinner tomorrow. Or that I had to do all the Christmas shopping all by myself. Why does God hate me?

Mr. Darby Settle down, Lucy. It's not a walk in the park for me either. Who do you think pays for all those presents you bought? Or all that food? You'd think we had 127 people coming over for dinner tomorrow! And on top of that, have you seen our utility bill this month? Do you know what it costs to heat this place? And now this....

Paige (whining) I'm hungry. I want a pizza.

Gilbert Yeah, me too. I'm starving. Can we please have something to eat?

Mrs. Darby Kids, I can't take this right now! How do you think I'm supposed to make you a pizza when I have no electricity? If you want something to eat, get it yourself.

Narrator While the Darby's anxiously tried to figure out how in the world they were going to get everything done, the Bloomfield's had come up with a plan of their own.

Mr. Bloomfield Well, it looks like one of our trees fell over and must have hit a power line. No telling how long it will take them to repair it, being Christmas Eve and all.

Mrs. Bloomfield It looks like Drew is going to get his wish of camping out in December. Why don't we get the sleeping bags and bring them into the living room?

Drew (excitedly) Do you mean we get to camp out in here tonight?

Summer And we could pretend the candles are a great big, warm campfire.

Sammy And what about s'mores? No camping trip is complete without s'mores.

Mrs. Bloomfield I think I might be able to muster up some chocolate and marshmallows.

Mr. Bloomfield That sounds great! Who ever thought we'd be camping in December?

Drew Maybe it's God's special present to me on Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield Maybe, Drew.

(Scene shifts to the Darby's.)

Paige But mom, I only know how to make peanut butter sandwiches and I don't even like those.

Mrs. Darby Well, peanut butter is what's on the menu tonight. So get cooking.

Gilbert (pretending to be a news anchor) We now tune in to Chef Paige Darby. And what will she be cooking up for us this fine evening?

Paige Leave me alone, Gilbert.

Gilbert Ah, her famous peanut butter sandwich. And watch how gracefully she spreads the peanut butter onto the bread. Tune in next week to watch her tackle pouring a glass of milk.

Mr. Darby OK, that's enough. We have enough problems without adding your squabbling to the mix.

(Scene shifts back to the Bloomfield's.)

Mrs. Bloomfield Here you go, kids. Let's make s'mores.

Mr. Bloomfield Everyone get a candle.

Summer (pretending) This is the biggest campfire you've ever made before, dad.

Drew It's so bright and warm.

Sammy And the sound of crickets and bullfrogs in the woods. Aaah!

Mrs. Bloomfield We'd better watch out for bears.

Mr. Bloomfield Good thing we have the adventurous Drew Bloomfield here to protect us all.

Drew (bravely) Don't worry everyone. I'll be on the look-out.
(Scene shifts back to the Darby's.)

Mrs. Darby I told you we should have gone to Florida this Christmas. Didn't I tell you? Oh, I just hate this weather!

Gilbert So, why couldn't we go to Florida, dad? It sure would have been better than being stuck in boring Plainsview with no electricity.

Paige Hey, I'd even be willing to stay here if we sent Gilbert to Florida.

Gilbert Ha, ha, ha. A professional chef AND a comedian.

Mr. Darby I told you, Lucille, we can't afford to go to Florida. Besides, I don't have anymore vacation until next summer.
(Scene shifts.)

Sammy This is so much fun. We should do this every year.

Summer I'm so thankful for our warm, cuddly sleeping bags on a night like tonight.

Drew And I'm thankful that mommy had a box of candles.
(Scene Shifts.)

Paige You mean we're stuck in this freezing weather all winter long?

Gilbert (longingly) Florida. One day I'll move to Florida.
(Scene shifts.)

Mrs. Bloomfield I'm thankful for my family and that we can all be together.
(Scene shifts.)

Mrs. Darby Oh, what am I going to do? Why does our *family* have to come over tomorrow?
(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Bloomfield Well, I'm thankful for God's provision.
(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Darby If my boss paid me a decent wage, I might be able to take this family on vacation.

(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Bloomfield And I'm thankful for good health.

(Scene shifts.)

Mr. Darby I'm getting a headache!

Song - Perspective is Elective

Narrator Christmas morning had finally arrived. A fresh blanket of snow now covered the ground. And, in the Bloomfield house, you could feel the excitement in the air.

Mrs. Bloomfield Good morning, kids. Merry Christmas!

Mr. Bloomfield Wake up, sleepy heads. The power's back on this morning and we have lots to do today.

Drew Is it Christmas already or am I dreaming?

Summer Yes, Drew, it's Christmas! Let's get our coats on and go outside to make snow angels.

Sammy That sound great, Summer. Besides, it looks like God gave us a fresh blanket of snow for Christmas.

Drew Wow! God just keeps giving us all kinds of presents this year!

Mrs. Bloomfield You kids bundle up. It's cold out there.

(Brief pause)

Mr. Bloomfield (lovingly) Merry Christmas, honey. (hands wife a present) I got you a little present.

Mrs. Bloomfield Oh, Ken, you didn't have to get me anything this year. I know money has been tight lately with your hours being cut at work. I wasn't expecting anything.

Mr. Bloomfield Well, it isn't the new refrigerator you've been wanting, but I did want to get you something.

(Mrs. Bloomfield opens present to find a blender)

Mr. Bloomfield I noticed that our old one was broken.

Mrs. Bloomfield Thank you, dear. A blender is a great gift. Hey, maybe later on tonight we can make ice cream shakes.

Mr. Bloomfield That sounds terrific! You're such a good wife and mother.

Narrator While Kenneth and Darlene enjoyed a few quiet holiday moments together, their children played happily outside. It wasn't long before their little trio was joined by Paige and Gilbert Darby.

Sammy Hi, Gilbert. Hi, Paige. We're making snow angels.

Drew Do you guys want to play with us?

Paige Sure. I love playing in the snow.

Gilbert Yeah, me too. Do you want to have a snowball fight?

Summer Sure, but you better run.

Narrator So with that, a snowball fight quickly ensued. There was snow flying everywhere. The kids got snow in their hair, in their boots, and down their coats. Before too long, all five kids were cold and tired.

Gilbert Hey, this is no fair. It's three against two.

Drew That's not our problem.

Paige I call a truce. Agree?

Summer OK. Let's give them a break, guys. Consider this my Christmas present to you.

Paige Speaking of presents, what are you guys hoping to get for Christmas?

Summer Well, I asked for this new dress I saw at the store. But I know that my parents don't have a lot of money this year, so I don't know if I'll get it or not. How about you?

Paige I want a new bike. A red, Yamaha, 10-speed, with a basket and a bell. Oh, and a matching red helmet to go with it.

Sammy Wow! I asked for a bike, too. The one you want sounds pretty great. But I probably won't get that kind.

Drew And I asked for more Legos. What about you, Gilbert?

Gilbert Well, there's this new set of video games out called "Termination of the Sloth's" that I really want. There are five games in the series and they come in this awesome carrying case. I gave my parents a picture of them so they wouldn't get mixed up.

Summer Those sound like some neat gifts. Brrrrr! It's getting sort of cold out here.

Sammy I'm cold, too. Can we go inside?

Paige Yeah, I think I'm ready to go inside and warm up, too.

Drew Good luck with your Christmas gifts.

Gilbert You, too. See you guys later.

Narrator As the morning continued on, the Darby's relatives began to arrive. There was activity in every corner of Lucille's clean house. Wonderful smells abounded in the kitchen where a feast had been prepared. There was roast beef, ham, baked potatoes, apple stuffing, cranberry Jell-O salad, and homemade dinner rolls. The table was set quite festively. And after what seemed like an eternal wait to the kids, it was finally time to gather the family and eat.

Mr. Darby Well, we're so glad that you all could make it today. My wife says that dinner's ready. So why doesn't everyone come into the kitchen and find a chair. We'll have a word of prayer and then dig in. (praying) Dear God, we want to pause and thank You for Your gracious provision to us. Thank You for our family and the safety You gave them all in their travels. Thank You for this delicious meal that Lucy has prepared. And most of all, thank You for sending Your Son so many years ago on that very first Christmas. Amen.

Narrator The Darby's all feasted on their delicious Christmas meal. There was laughter and joking, singing and playing, and afterwards homemade apple pie. But while the Bloomfield's enjoyed a very different meal, there was no less enjoyment.

Mr. Bloomfield This soup is wonderful, darling.

Summer Yeah, mom, it's really good. And I love the biscuits.

Mrs. Bloomfield We're certainly very blessed this Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield Yes, God is very good. You know kids, not everyone gets a delicious meal on Christmas.

Drew They don't? How come?

Mr. Bloomfield Some countries are very poor and people don't have money for food. Sometimes people are very sick and can only eat simple foods. Some families don't have a mommy that can cook as good as yours. (kids giggle) But did you know that there is something far more valuable than physical food?

Summer What's that?

Mr. Bloomfield The food from God's Word.

Mrs. Bloomfield I was just reading the other day in First Peter. It says that just like our bodies need food to grow, our soul also needs food to grow.

Summer Our soul grows by reading the Bible and praying, right?

Mr. Bloomfield Very good. And depending on how much we have fellowship with God, our soul is either starving or feasting.

Drew I want both my stomach and my soul to have a feast this Christmas!

Song - The Bible is a Feast for the Soul

Paige Daddy, can we please open our presents now? I've been waiting for 364 days! Come on, already!

Mr. Darby What did you do, Paige? Make your Christmas wish list last New Years?

Paige Daddy, you know how long I've been waiting for a new bike. My bike's so old it still has the training wheels on it.

Gilbert (sarcastically) Maybe there's a reason for that.

Paige Be quiet, Gilbert! We all know what was on your Christmas list – a stuffed Barney doll and airplane sippy cups.

Mrs. Darby All right, you two. Cut it out. Let's try and enjoy these few moments together.

Mr. Darby I think you've waited long enough. We promised that after dinner, and after our company all went home, we'd open presents. So, it's time for presents!

Mrs. Darby Here you go, Gilbert.

Gilbert Awesome! These are the exact video games I wanted. Thanks guys.

Paige Now if only he was smarter than the wrapping paper, he'd actually be able to play them.

Mrs. Darby Paige. (pause) If you look behind the couch there is a present for you.

Paige A new bike! Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you! I love it. How could you possibly have known that's what I wanted?

Mr. Darby Your subtle reminders these past 364 days helped a little.

Paige You're the best parents in the whole world. I love you very much!

(Scene shifts to the Bloomfield home)

Mr. Bloomfield (Reading from his Bible) "...not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound, every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Summer Daddy, that's a funny story to be reading on Christmas.

Drew Yeah, we usually read about baby Jesus on Christmas.

Mr. Bloomfield And that's a good story, too. But I thought we'd read something different this year.

Mrs. Bloomfield Your father and I thought that while we usually place a big emphasis on all the nice presents we want, it might be a good idea to talk about contentment.

Sammy Contentment? What's that?

Mr. Bloomfield That's a good question, Sammy. Contentment is being happy with what you already have instead of always wanting something else.

Mrs. Bloomfield Did you know that the story daddy was reading was written by a man named Paul? You've maybe learned about him at church.

Summer We learned in Sunday School that Paul was beaten, stoned and left to die.

Mr. Bloomfield Very good, Summer.

Drew I remember my teacher telling me that Paul lived in a tent.

Mr. Bloomfield Well, Paul was a tentmaker, so he may have lived in a tent. Sammy, do you know anything else about Paul?

Sammy Didn't he get thrown in jail?

Mr. Bloomfield Not only did he get thrown in jail, but he sang songs while he was in there. Can you imagine anybody being happy in jail?

Mrs. Bloomfield Kids, Paul was content even though he was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, run out of town, thrown into jail, and possibly even living in a tent.

Drew Content in a tent. Hey, that rhymes.

Summer We should be content if we live in a mansion or a tent.

Sammy And I should be content whether I ever get a new bike or have to keep riding my old one that's bent.

Mr. Bloomfield I'm proud of you kids. You have the idea exactly. This Christmas let's determine to be content in a tent.

Song - Content in a Tent

Narrator After much waiting, the Bloomfield children opened their presents. While they didn't get what they'd hoped for, they were not disappointed. They truly had caught the spirit of contentment. This happy family spent the afternoon playing games and making a gingerbread house. While there was no fanfare, it would be a Christmas to remember. Later on that evening, Summer, Sammy, and Drew decided to once again go outside and play. The Darby kids were already outside.

Paige Summer, Sammy, Drew! Look what I got for Christmas! Isn't it beautiful?

Sammy That's really nice, Paige. I'm glad you got what you wanted.

Paige What about you? Did you get a new bike?

Sammy No. But I got some really nice coloring books and some stickers. They're really pretty.

Summer Gilbert, did you get the video games you asked for?

Gilbert Yeah! You guys will have to come over and play them with me sometime.

Drew That would be really fun.

Gilbert Summer and Drew, what did you two get?

Summer Well, I got a new winter coat.

Drew And I got some Matchbox cars.

Gilbert (sadly) Oh! Well, I'm sorry you guys didn't get what you really wanted.

Summer That's OK. We decided that this Christmas, no matter what, we were going to be content.

Sammy That's right. I learned that I can be just as happy with a book of stickers or a new bike or even nothing at all.

Paige I don't think I could have been happy with just some stickers.

Summer Sure you could have, Paige. You see, God can give you strength to be happy in any situation.

Drew Daddy told us the story of Paul in the Bible. Did you know that he was happy living in a tent?

Gilbert What was wrong with him?

Sammy Nothing was wrong with him. God just helped make him realize that *things* couldn't make him happy.

Gilbert I'm pretty happy with my new video games.

Summer You may be happy right now. But I bet that in a year you won't even care about those games anymore.

Gilbert We'll have to wait and see about that. We'd better go inside now, Paige. Mom told us she wanted our beds made before lunch.

Paige I'll be right there, Gilbert. (pause) Sammy, are you really happy with your new stickers and coloring books?

Sammy A new bike would have been really nice, but, yes, I am happy with the gifts I got.

Paige Well, if you ever want to ride my bike, I'll let you.

Summer That's very nice of you, Paige.

Paige Well, you're probably right. I could *choose* to be happy with or without my new bike. You just let me know when you want to ride it. I better go now.

Sammy See you later. Merry Christmas.

Drew Merry Christmas. Bye.

Narrator The sun finally set on Plainsview that Christmas evening. The sky was bright with stars and the glowing Christmas lights. All was quiet outside. And if you peeked inside the Bloomfield's house, you would see a mom and dad with their three children happily enjoying milkshakes. Yes, this cozy family had truly realized that contentment is not found in material things. It's not found in delicious foods or exciting festivities. It's not found in family or friends. Contentment came to earth in a stable so many years ago. It was because of that tiny baby, named Jesus, that mankind can have true peace and happiness.

Mr. Darby Lucille, there is one more gift to open. I bought you something I think you'll like very much.

- Mrs. Darby** Oh, Tom, I thought you forgot. You really shouldn't have. (opening gift excitedly) What could it possibly be? There are so many things I've had my eye on. (After opening the gift, she pauses, then says with disgust) A blender! You bought me a blender?
- Mr. Darby** I know how much you like those fruit smoothies and I thought you could make your own.
- Mrs. Darby** A blender? Maybe a new set of pajamas or some new perfume or a night away from the kids or.....
- Mr. Darby** Lucy, I was just trying to be thoughtful. After all, you told me not to get you anything.
- Mrs. Darby** I always *tell* you not to get me anything. That doesn't mean, don't get me anything!
- Mr. Darby** I give up!
- Mrs. Darby** Don't I deserve anything to make me happy?
- Mr. Darby** Of course you do, dear. I'm really sorry about the blender.
- Mrs. Darby** This has been a lousy Christmas. I cook and clean for weeks. We lose the power on Christmas Eve. It's freezing outside. And now this – a blender. I don't know any woman who would be happy with a blender.
- Mr. Darby** (dryly) Merry Christmas, honey.

Song - Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

Christmas Commotion Medley

for Youth Choir and Keyboard

Words and Music by **HEIDI FULLER**

Arrangement by **NANCY BJOKNE**

Piano

mf

Pno.

Pno.

rit. *f* *vivo*

Pno.

mf a tempo

Christmas Commotion Medley

17

Pno.

Measures 17-20: The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

21

Pno.

Measures 21-24: The right hand continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The left hand uses block chords and moving bass lines.

25

Pno.

Measures 25-28: Measures 25 and 26 feature a more active right hand with eighth notes. Measures 27 and 28 return to a more melodic right hand with quarter notes.

29

Pno.

Measures 29-32: The right hand has a melodic line with some rests. The left hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

33

Pno.

Measures 33-36: The right hand consists of sustained block chords. The left hand has a moving eighth-note line.

Pno.

37

Pno.

41

Pno.

45

Pno.

49

f

mf

Pno.

53

Christmas Commotion Medley

Pno.

57

rit.

Pno.

61

mf Choir unison

It's that time of year when

61

f

mf *a tempo*

Pno.

65

ev - 'ry - where you go, skies light up at night with

65

69

bright- ly col - ored glow. Sounds of sil - ver bells,

Pno.

73

ring - ing loud and clear, are ev - i - dence to ev - 'ry - one that

Pno.

77

Christ-mas time is here. Pres - ents wrapped fes - tive - ly

Pno.

Christmas Commotion Medley

81

un- der - neath the tree, I won-der just which ones are wait - ing

Pno.

85

pa - tient - ly for me. _____ Snow-flakes fall ten - der - ly

Pno.

89

from the win - ter sky, and smells a - bound through - out the town of

Pno.

The musical score is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system starts at measure 81 with the lyrics 'un- der - neath the tree, I won-der just which ones are wait - ing'. The second system starts at measure 85 with the lyrics 'pa - tient - ly for me. _____ Snow-flakes fall ten - der - ly'. The third system starts at measure 89 with the lyrics 'from the win - ter sky, and smells a - bound through - out the town of'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex, flowing pattern in the left hand.

rit. *f a tempo*

93

grand-ma's ap - ple pie. Glo - - - -

Pno.

rit. *f a tempo*

93

97

- - - - ri a! How I love De - cem - ber!

Pno.

101

Glo - - - - - ri - a!

Pno.

101

Christmas Commotion Medley

105

How I love De - cem - - - ber! _____

Pno.

105

rit.

109

mf a tempo

A - mid the fuss and hur - ry of this

Pno.

109

a tempo

113

bu - sy ho - li - day, may we all be mind - ful why we

Pno.

113

The image shows a page of a musical score for a Christmas medley. It features three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system starts at measure 105 with the lyrics 'How I love De - cem - - - ber!'. The piano part has a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The second system starts at measure 109 with the lyrics 'A - mid the fuss and hur - ry of this'. The piano part has an 'mf a tempo' marking. The third system starts at measure 113 with the lyrics 'bu - sy ho - li - day, may we all be mind - ful why we'. The piano part has an 'a tempo' marking. A large, diagonal 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the right side of the page.

117

ce - le - brate this way. Je - sus came from Heav'n a - bove to

Pno.

121

our re - demp-tion pay. Be - cause of His a - tone-ment the

Pno.

125

saved can sure - ly say, "Glo - - - - -

Pno.

Christmas Commotion Medley

129

ri - a! How I love the Sav - ior!

Pno.

133

Glo - ri a!

Pno.

137

How I love the Sav - ior!"

Pno.

141 *mf* Two-part

Pres-ents wrapped fes-tive - ly

A - mid the fuss and hur-ry of this

Pno.

145

un - der-neath the tree, I won - der just which ones are wait - ing

bu - sy ho - li - day, May we all be mind - ful why we

Pno.

149

pa - tient - ly for me. Snow-flakes fall ten - der - ly

ce - le - brate this way. Je - sus came from Heav'n a - bove to

Pno.

Christmas Commotion Medley

153

from the win - ter sky, and smells a - bound through - out the town of

our re - demp - tion pay. Be - cause of His a - tone - ment the

157

grand - ma's ap - ple pie. *f* Glo - - - -

saved can sure - ly say Glo - - - -

157

161

ri - a! How I love De - cem - ber!

ri - a! How I love the Sav - ior!

161

Pno.

165

Glo - - - - - ri - a!

Glo - - - - - ri - a!

Pno.

169

How I love De - cem - - - ber!

How I love the Sav - - - ior!

169

rit.

Pno.

173

173

mp

Pno.

Christmas Commotion Medley

177 *mp* Choir unison

Con - tent - ment comes not from a

Pno.

181

truck - load of toys or striped Christ - mas can - dies or

Pno.

185

gin - ger - bread boys. It does - n't ar - rive in a

Pno.

189

rein - deer - pulled sleigh, but on - ly through Je - sus, a -

Pno.

193 *rit.*

sleep on the hay. He's all that I need on this bless'd

Pno.

rit.

198

hol - i - day.

Pno.

8va

Whiter Than the Whitest Snow

for Youth Choir and Keyboard

Words and Music by **HEIDI FULLER**

Part 1

Part 2

Piano *mp*

5

Pno.

8 *mp*

Whit - er — than the whit - est snow.

Whit - er, whit - er, whit - ter than the whit - est snow.

8

Pno.

10

Bright - er _____ than the bright - est glow. _____

Bright - er, bright - er, bright - er than the bright - est glow. _____

Pno.

12

Whit - er _____ than the whit - est snow. My

Whit - er, whit - er, whit - er than the whit - est snow. My

Pno.

14

all I now owe to that bless'd crim - son flow, that trans -

all I now owe to that bless'd crim - son flow, that trans -

Pno.

Whiter Than the Whitest Snow

18

forms my heart and makes it whit-er than the whit-est ____ snow. ____

forms my heart and makes it whit-er than the whit-est ____ snow. ____

Pno.

21

21

Pno.

25

mf Choir unison

On-ly

Pno.

29

God can make a moun- tain with___ sin - gle spo - ken word. On - ly

Pno. *mf*

31

God can map the jour - ney of a sim - ple lit - tle bird. On - ly

Pno.

33

God can take the dust of earth___ and form it in - to man. On - ly

Pno.

35 *f*

God, on-ly God, on-ly God could come from Heav-en to ful-

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

38 *rit.* *a tempo*

fill re - demp-tion's plan. He makes me whit - er than the

Whit - er, whit - er, whit - er than the

Pno. *rit.* *a tempo*

40

whit - est snow. Bright - er than the

whit - est snow. Bright - er, bright - er, bright - er than the

Pno.

42

bright - est glow. Whit - er — than the

bright - est glow. Whit - er, whit - er, whit - er than the

Pno.

44

whit - est snow. — My all I now owe to that

whit - est snow. — My all I now owe to that

Pno.

47

bless'd crim-son flow, that trans - forms my heart and makes it

bless'd crim-son flow, that trans - forms my heart and makes it

Pno.

Whiter Than the Whitest Snow

50 *mp*

whit-er than the whit-est — snow.

mp

whit-er than the whit-est — snow.

Pno.

54

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

54

Pno.

58

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7

58

Pno.

62 *mp* Choir unison *a tempo*

Thank You, Lord, for sav - ing my

62 *rit.* *a tempo*

67

soul. Thank You, Lord, for mak - ing me

67

71

whole. Thank You, Lord, for giv - ing to

71

Pno.

Pno.

Pno.

Whiter Than the Whitest Snow

75

me Thy great sal - va - tion, so rich and

Pno.

79

free. Thank You, ———

mf

Pno.

83

mp rit. 3 Thank — You ——— for mak-ing me whit-er than the whit-est ——— snow.

mp *rit.* 8va ———, 8va ———,

Pno.

Perspective is Elective

for Youth Choir and Keyboard

Words and Music by **HEIDI FULLER**

Arrangement by **NANCY BJOKNE**

Piano

mf

4 *mf* Choir unison

Per - spec - tive is e - lec - tive, it's all your point of

Pno.

8

view. Per - spec - tive's not de - ter - mined by an - y - one but

Pno.

Perspective is Elective

12

you. Per - spec - tive is e - lec - tive, it's no in - ven - tion

Pno.

16

new. It's voice is heard in ev - 'ry word and ac - tion that you

Pno.

20

do. Do you

mf

Pno.

24

see the glass half emp - ty, or is it half - way full? Does the

Pno.

mf

28

preach-er have a lov - ing heart, or is he whole-heart-ed - ly dull? Do you

Pno.

32

view your clothes as dir - ty, or just in need of soap? Do you

Pno.

36

look through rose-rimmed glass - es or a mud - dy tel - e - scope? Per -

Pno.

40

spec - tive is e - lec - tive, it's all your point of view. Per -

Pno.

44

spec - tive's not de - ter - mined by an - y - one but you. Per -

Pno.

48

spec - tive is e - lec - tive, it's no in - ven - tion new. It's

Pno.

52

voice is heard in ev - 'ry word and act - ion that you do.

Pno.

56

mp

As you sit at home u -

Pno.

mp

60

Pon your bed, do you feel cramped or co-zy? Are your par-ents lov-ing -

Pno.

64

ly in-volved, or are they simp-ly strict and nosy? Can you see the snow's soft

Pno.

68

beau-ty, or just the dang'rous banks? Did you know the Bi-ble

Pno.

72 *f*

says, "In ev - 'ry - thing give thanks"? Per - spec - tive is e -

Pno.

76

lec - tive, it's all your point of view. Per - spec - tive's not de -

Pno.

80

ter-mined by an - y - one but you. Per - spec - tive is e -

Pno.

84

lec - tive, it's no in - ven - tion new. It's voice is heard in

Pno.

88

ev - 'ry word and ac - tion that you do. It's voice is heard

Pno.

subito mp

92

— in ev - 'ry word — and ac - tion that you do!

Pno.

f

Christmas Commotion

Arrangement by NANCY BJOKNE

Piano

Measures 1-4 of the piano arrangement. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody in the right hand features a series of eighth-note runs. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

Measures 5-8 of the piano arrangement. The melody continues with eighth-note patterns. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent with the previous section.

Measures 9-12 of the piano arrangement. Measure 9 is marked *rit.* (ritardando). The melody in the right hand becomes more complex with sixteenth-note runs. Measure 12 features a forte (*f*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand continues with a steady accompaniment.

Measures 13-16 of the piano arrangement. Measure 13 is marked *mf a tempo*. The melody in the right hand consists of quarter notes. The left hand accompaniment continues with a steady pattern.

Christmas Commotion

17

Musical notation for measures 17-20. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes in measures 17-18, followed by eighth notes in measure 19, and a half note in measure 20. The bass line features chords of two eighth notes in measures 17-18, quarter notes in measure 19, and chords of two eighth notes in measure 20.

21

Musical notation for measures 21-24. The melody continues with quarter notes in measures 21-22, a half note in measure 23, and a quarter note in measure 24. The bass line features chords of two eighth notes in measures 21-22, quarter notes in measure 23, and chords of two eighth notes in measure 24.

25

Musical notation for measures 25-28. The melody includes quarter notes in measures 25-26, eighth notes in measure 27, and a half note in measure 28. The bass line features chords of two eighth notes in measures 25-26, quarter notes in measure 27, and chords of two eighth notes in measure 28.

29

Musical notation for measures 29-32. The melody starts with a half note in measure 29, followed by quarter notes in measures 30-31, and eighth notes in measure 32. The bass line features chords of two eighth notes in measures 29-30, quarter notes in measure 31, and chords of two eighth notes in measure 32.

33

37

41

45

49

Measures 49-53 of the piano score. Measure 49 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands, marked *f*. Measure 50 is a whole rest. Measures 51-52 feature a triplet of eighth notes in both hands, marked *mf*. Measure 53 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands, marked *mf*. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 53.

54

Measures 54-57 of the piano score. Measure 54 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands. Measures 55-56 feature a triplet of eighth notes in both hands. Measure 57 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands.

58

Measures 58-61 of the piano score. Measure 58 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands. Measures 59-60 feature a triplet of eighth notes in both hands. Measure 61 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands.

62

Measures 62-65 of the piano score. Measure 62 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands, marked *f*. Measures 63-64 feature a triplet of eighth notes in both hands, marked *ff*. Measure 65 features a triplet of eighth notes in both hands, marked *ff*. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 65.

The Bible is a Feast for the Soul

for Youth Choir and Keyboard

Words and Music by **HEATHER SCHOPF**

Arrangement by **NANCY BJOKNE**

Piano

mp

4 *mp* Choir unison

Quite ob-vi - ous to all is a hun-gry sto-mach's call as it

Pno.

mp

7

craves for a sa - tis - fy - ing bite. But food from a buf - fet can - not

Pno.

mp

10 *mf*

fill you all the way when you've ig-nored your soul's ap-pe-tite! Give me a

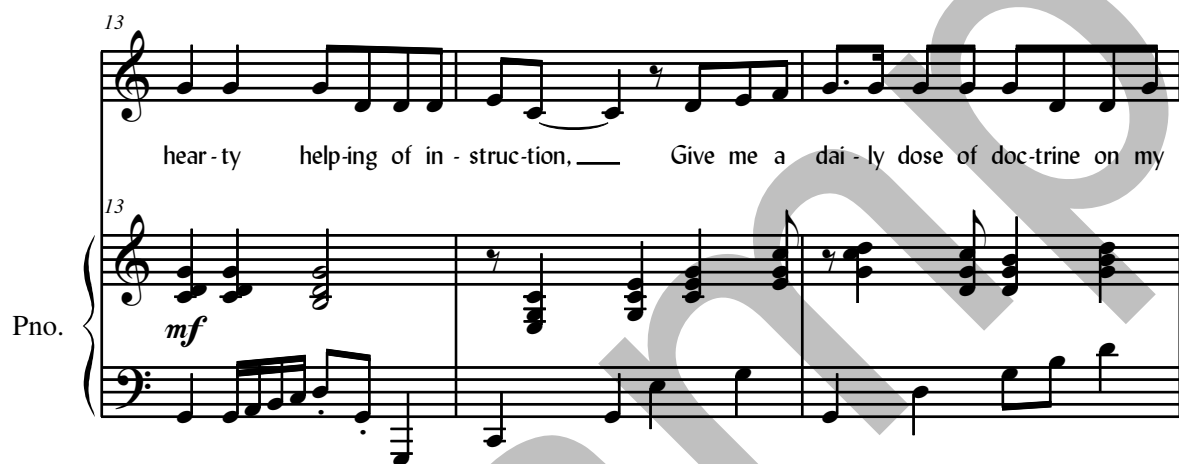
Pno.



13

hear-ty help-ing of in-struc-tion, — Give me a dai-ly dose of doc-trine on my

Pno. *mf*



16

plate, Give me a size-a-ble spoon-ful of cor-rec-tion —

Pno.



19

that will sure-ly help to set me straight! With wis - dom fill my

Pno.



22

plat - ter, — With know - ledge fill my bowl.

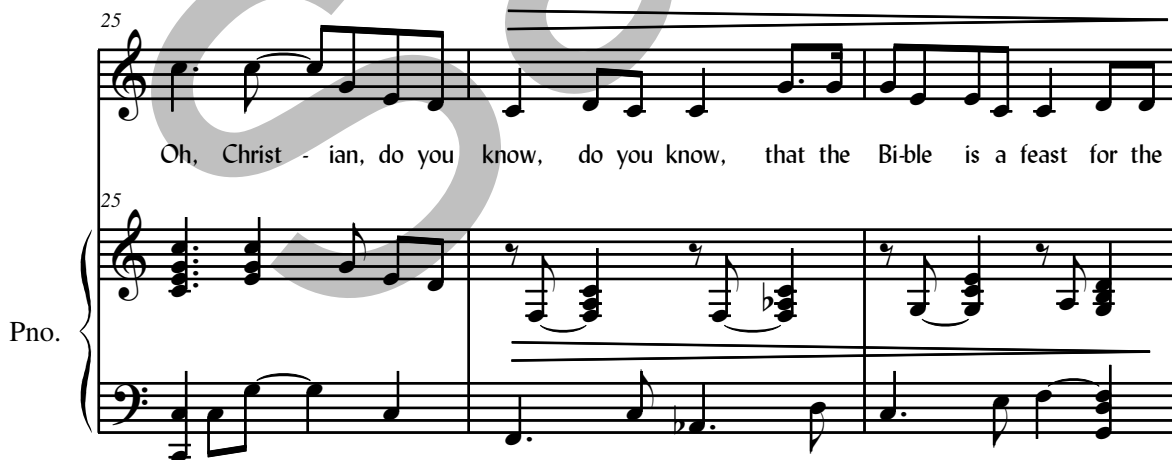
Pno.



25

Oh, Christ - ian, do you know, do you know, that the Bi-ble is a feast for the

Pno.



28 *mp* *mf*

soul! How im-

Pno. *mp*

32

pos - si - ble to eat on a sin - gle day a week and full ex - pect your bo - dy to sur -

Pno. *mf*

35

vive. So, Sun - day's ser - mon — a - lone, with no Scrip - ture — at home, is

Pno. *mf*

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment (Pno.). The first system starts at measure 28. The vocal line begins with a whole note 'soul!' and then a half note 'How im-'. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note chord and continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. The second system starts at measure 32. The vocal line continues with 'pos - si - ble to eat on a sin - gle day a week and full ex - pect your bo - dy to sur -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. The third system starts at measure 35. The vocal line continues with 'vive. So, Sun - day's ser - mon — a - lone, with no Scrip - ture — at home, is'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. The score includes dynamic markings: 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'mf' (mezzo-forte). There is a large, faint watermark 'Sample' across the center of the page.

Pno.

Pno.

Pno.

47

set me straight! With wis - dom fill my plat-ter, —

Pno.

50

With know - ledge fill my bowl. Oh, Christ - ian, do you

Pno.

53

know, do you know, that the Bi-ble is a feast for the soul! Just

Pno.

broaden mp <

mp broaden

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system starts at measure 47, the second at measure 50, and the third at measure 53. The piano part includes dynamic markings like 'mp' and 'broaden'.

56 *mf*

like a new-born ba-by who for milk will cry, a Christ-ian should be crav-ing for the

Pno. *cresc.*

59 *a tempo*

Bi-ble lest he die, lest he die! Give me a hear-ty help-ing of in-

Pno. *f a tempo*

62

struc-tion, Give me a dai-ly dose of doc-trine on my plate, Give me a

Pno.

65

size - a - ble spoon - ful of cor - rec - tion _____ that will sure - ly help to

Pno.

68

set me straight! With wis - dom fill my plat - ter, —

Pno.

71

With know - ledge fill my bowl. Oh, Christ - ian, do you

Pno.

74

know, do you know, that the Bi-ble is a feast for the soul!

Pno.

77 *subito p* *f*

Oh, Christ - ian, do you know, do you know, that the

Pno. *subito p* *f*

80

Bi-ble — is a feast for the soul!

Pno.

Content in a Tent

for Youth Choir and Keyboard

Words and Music by HEIDI FULLER

Arrangement by NANCY BJOKNE

Piano

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a melody in the right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a bass line in the left hand with eighth notes. The dynamic is marked *mf*. There are triplet markings in both hands.

4 *mf* Choir unison

In what-so-e-ver state I am there I will be con-tent. If

Pno.

The piano accompaniment for the first line of lyrics starts at measure 4. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *mf*. There is an 8vb marking in the right hand.

7

I live in a man-sion—or in a bro-ken tent, If I drive a Mer-ced-es Benz or a

Pno.

The piano accompaniment for the second line of lyrics starts at measure 7. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *mf*. There is an 8vb marking in the right hand.

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10 *f* *mf*

bi- cy - cle that's bent, No mat-ter, I'll raise my praise to God, _____ I'll

Pno. *f* *8va*

13 *mf solo*

choose to be content. We

Pno. *mf* 3 3

16

read a - bout con - tent - ment _____ in Phi - lip - pi - ans, chap - ter four. Though

Pno. *mp*

18

Paul did not have rich - es, — he did not long for more. God

Pno.

20

called him to go forth and preach, a job that few men dared. But

Pno.

22

no com-plaint from Paul was heard, though he was speech im-paired. There

Pno.

mf

24

were not ma - ny ac - co - lades, — yet mock - er - y and pain. But

Pno.

26

e - ven 'mid such treat - ment, — he sang while locked in chains. Now,

Pno.

28

some may look at Paul and deem no pleas - ant way to live, but

Pno.

mp

30

he had learned to keep a smile e-ven as a fug-i-tive.

Pno.

33

mf Choir unison

In what-so-e-ver state I am there I will be con-tent. If my

Pno.

36

bank ac-count is load-ed— or down to fif-ty cents, If the

Pno.

38

Pno.

sun is shin - ing bright - ly — or the storm just won't re-lent, No

40

Pno.

mat-ter, I'll raise my praise to God — I'll choose to be content.

43

Pno.

What - ever your lot in life may be this

46

truth each one should know: There will be times that you'll a-bound___ and

Pno.

48

times you'll be made low. It's ea - sy to be hap - py___ when

Pno.

50

ev - 'ry - thing seems right, but how will you re - spond when the

Pno.

52

day-time turns to night? When mon-ey ___ wanes ___ and health grows dim, will

Pno.

54

for re - lief you plead? Or trust, in what - so - e - ver state, God

Pno.

56

meets your ev - 'ry need? Yes, Paul had learned the se - cret to a

Pno.

58

rich and joy - ful life: God was the One Who gave him strength to

Pno.

58

60

smile_ in the strife. In

f Choir unison

Pno.

60

63

whatso-e-ver state I am there I will be content. Though I may not have ev-rything, my

Pno.

63

f

The image shows a musical score for a piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 58-59) features a vocal line with lyrics 'rich and joy - ful life: God was the One Who gave him strength to' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 60-62) includes a vocal line with lyrics 'smile_ in the strife. In' and a piano accompaniment with triplets and accents. The third system (measures 63-65) has a vocal line with lyrics 'whatso-e-ver state I am there I will be content. Though I may not have ev-rything, my' and a piano accompaniment starting with a forte dynamic. A large, faint watermark 'Copyright ©' is visible across the page.

66

lot I won't la-ment. I'll count my ma-ny bles-sings — and of my greed re-pent. I'll

Pno.

66

8^{va} — — —

69

simp-ly raise my praise to God — and choose to be con-tent. In a

Pno.

69

8^{va} — — —

8^{va} — — —

ff

mf

subito *p*

72

man - sion or a tent, with a bike that's bent, when the

Pno.

72

subito *p*

73

storm will not re - lent, if my health is spent, I'll

Pno.

74

f choose to be con - tent!

Pno.

f

Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

for Youth Choir and Keyboard

Words and Music by **HEIDI FULLER**

Arrangement by **NANCY BJOKNE**

Piano

mf

Pno.

5

Pno.

9

rit.

f

13 *mf* Choir unison *a tempo*

It's that time of year when ev - 'ry - where you go,

Pno.

13 *mf* *a tempo*

Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

17

skies light up at night with bright-ly col-ored glow.

Pno.

21

Sounds of sil-ver bells, ring-ing loud and clear are

Pno.

25

ev-i-dence to ev-'ry-one that Christ-mas time is here.

Pno.

29 *mf* Two-part

Pres- ents wrapped fes- tive - ly un - der - neath the tree, I

mp

Jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle,

33

won - der just which ones are wait - ing pa - tient - ly for me. —

jīn - gle, jīn - gle, jīn - gle, jīn - gle, jīn - gle, jīn - gle, jīn - gle,

37

Snow-flakes fall ten - der - ly from the win - ter sky, and

Jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle,

37

Pno.

Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

41

smells a - bound through - out the town of grand-ma's ap - ple pie.

jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle, jin - gle.

Pno.

45 *mf*

Glo - - - - - ri - al!

Glo - - - - - ri - al!

Pno.

49

How I love De - cem - ber! Glo - - - - -

How I love De - cem - ber! Glo - - - - -

Pno.

The musical score is written for a vocal part and piano accompaniment. It features three systems of music. The first system (measures 41-44) has a vocal line with lyrics 'smells a - bound through - out the town of grand-ma's ap - ple pie.' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 45-48) has a vocal line with lyrics 'Glo - - - - - ri - al!' and a piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 49-52) has a vocal line with lyrics 'How I love De - cem - ber! Glo - - - - -' and a piano accompaniment. The piano part is marked 'Pno.' and includes a large watermark 'SAMPLE'.

53

ri - a! How I love De - cem -

Pno.

57

mp ber! Pres-ents wrapped fes-tive-ly

mf ber! A - mid the fuss and hur-ry of this

Pno.

61

un - der-neath the tree, I won - der just which ones are wait - ing

bu - sy ho - li - day, may we all be mind - ful why we

Pno.

Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

65

pa - tient - ly for me. ——— Snow-flakes fall ten - der - ly

ce - le - brate this way. Je - sus came from Heav'n a - bove to

65

69

from the win - ter sky, and smells a - bound through - out the town of

our re - demp - tion pay. Be - cause of His a - tone - ment, the

69

73

grand - ma's ap - ple pie. Glo - - - -

saved can sure - ly say, "Glo - - - -

73

Pno.

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and style are indicated by the title 'Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise'. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano part is labeled 'Pno.' on the left. The score includes measure numbers 65, 69, and 73. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the page.

77

- - - - - ri - a! How I love De - cem - ber!

- - - - - ri - a! How I love the Sav - ior!

Pno.

81

Glo - - - - - ri - a!

Glo - - - - - ri - a!

Pno.

85

How I love De - cem - - - - ber!

How I love the Sav - - - - ior!"

Pno.

rit.

Christmas Commotion Medley Reprise

89 *mp* Choir unison

Con -

89 *mp*

93

tent - ment comes not from a truck - load of toys, or

93

97

striped Christ - mas can - dies or gin - ger - bread boys. It

97

Pno.

101

does - n't ar - rive in a rein - deer - pulled sleigh, but

Pno.

105

on - ly through Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay. He's

He's

Pno.

rit. Two-part

109

all that I need on this bless'd ho - li -

all that I need on this bless'd ho - li -

Pno.

rit.

113

day. _____

day. _____

113

Pno.

8va

This musical score is for a piano accompaniment. It features two systems of staves. The first system consists of two treble clef staves, each with a melodic line starting on a half note and followed by a dotted half note, with a horizontal line indicating a continuation. The second system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The treble staff contains chords and a melodic line starting on a half note, followed by a dotted half note, with a horizontal line indicating a continuation. The bass staff contains a melodic line starting on a half note, followed by a dotted half note, with a horizontal line indicating a continuation. The score is marked with a large 'Sample' watermark.