

A POLITICALLY-INCORRECT CHRISTMAS

Characters:

Angel
Teacher
Students (4-8)
Principal
Mayor
Reporters (2-4)
Senior Man
Senior Woman
Mary
Joseph
Three Kings
Shepherds (2-4)

Scene One

[Spotlight on ANGEL, who is standing Center Stage.]

ANGEL

It is almost the 25th of December – the day millions of people all over the earth remember and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. It seems as the years pass, the true meaning of why the Lord sent His only Son to earth - what you call Christmas – has been lost. Furthermore, those that have celebrated this sacred holiday since they were children are now coming under attack by those that want to remove any reference to God or Jesus during this time of year. I am an angel sent from God. I am here to show you the good and bad, the faithful and the fearful, the truth and the lies, and the real meaning of Christmas. Join me as we visit several different places.

[ANGEL crosses to down stage left. Lights up on classroom scene (right half of stage). TEACHER stands in front of students, who are seated.]

This is Joyce Pennebaker, and her small class of students. Joyce has been teaching here for five years, and every year it is harder and harder for her to celebrate Christmas. Not because her love for Jesus has lessened, or because she no longer enjoys Christmas, but because she has been forced to ignore her beliefs, and has not been allowed to share her faith with her students. When this country began over two hundred years ago, things were different. Men who loved and feared God created a government based upon Biblical principles. Reading the Bible and teaching school children its precepts was not only accepted, but encouraged. My, how times have changed.

[Spotlight off ANGEL.]

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

TEACHER

[To class:] Okay, class, it's time for music class. Everyone get out their Winter Holidays Song Book. Turn to song number 12, “

[Song: "Jingle Bells" or similar politically-correct song]

STUDENT ONE

But what about the Baby Jesus?

TEACHER

We can't mention Him, Thomas.

STUDENT TWO

And what about Mary and Joseph, and the three wise men?

TEACHER

I'm sorry, Sarah, we can't mention them either.

STUDENT THREE

Then what's left?

TEACHER

[Struggling:] Well, there's Santa Claus, and the reindeer, and snowmen, and lots of other things. We just can't sing any songs about Jesus... *[TEACHER covers mouth.]*

STUDENT FOUR

Was it the same way when you were a kid, Ms. Pennebaker?

TEACHER

No, it wasn't. I'm not allowed to explain, but, it was very different then.

STUDENT ONE

Can you sing us a song from when you were a kid?

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

TEACHER

I don't think so, children. It could get me into trouble.

STUDENTS

[Together:] Please.

TEACHER

All right. But you can't tell anyone about it, okay.

[Students nod.]

[TEACHER sings an older Christmas hymn. Half way through the hymn, PRINCIPAL, unnoticed by TEACHER, peeks in through the door.]

PRINCIPAL

[At song's conclusion:] Ms. Pennebaker, can I see you in my office, please?

[PRINCIPAL exits. TEACHER crosses stage to exit, knowing her fate. She stops at the door and turns to address her class.]

TEACHER

Merry Christmas, children.

[TEACHER exits. Classroom scene lights off. Spotlight on ANGEL.]

ANGEL

That took a lot of courage. She does get fired, by the way. Don't worry about her, though. The Lord has already arranged for her to be offered a job at a private Christian school, where she can openly express her love and faith. Thomas, the boy in the red shirt, grows up to be fine lawyer, and donates half of his time representing Christians in court cases where they are forced to fight for their religious beliefs.

[ANGEL crosses to center stage. Lights up on outdoor city scene.]

Now let's go downtown and visit the Mayor who just finished her speech. She is the first woman to serve as Mayor in this little town's 120-year history. She promised to make bold changes. Sometimes, promises that are made on a political podium sound better than the thoughts that are really in the heart.

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

[Spotlight off ANGEL.]

MAYOR

And as your new mayor, I pledge to keep all of the promises I made during my campaign. You have my word on that!

REPORTER ONE

Excuse me, Mayor. What sort of changes do you intend on making first?

MAYOR

Well, for one, I will work hard to make this city the envy of all small cities in this great state. By following the examples of large cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York, we will develop a more loving, tolerant community - embracing all of its inhabitants, without regard to color, social status, or lifestyle. We must strive to create a community where individuals do not offend others that have beliefs different than theirs.

REPORTER TWO

What do you mean?

MAYOR

I'm glad you asked that question. I'm sure you have all heard of the large tree in the center of Billings Park.

[Crowd nods, smiling.]

Normally, during this time of year, we decorate the tree with festive lights and ornaments. We won't be doing that this year. It has been brought to my attention that some of our citizens are offended by the display. Furthermore, the parade on the week before Christmas *[covers mouth]*, I mean the 25th, will now be called the Winter Festival Parade.

REPORTER THREE

What about churches that have Nativity scenes?

MAYOR

Such scenes are to be kept inside the church building where the members of the church can enjoy them. Outdoor scenes cannot be allowed, since some passers-by might be offended by the religious symbolism the scene conveys.

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

REPORTER FOUR

Is this some kind of joke?

MAYOR

My friends, religious intolerance is no joke.

REPORTER FOUR

Let me guess. I suppose you're going to tell us that the university cannot perform The Nutcracker Ballet this year either.

MAYOR

The Nutcracker will be performed as planned. There will be some slight changes to the cast, though. The Sugar Plum Fairy will now be known as the Sugar Plum Pixie, since the other term has a negative connotation.

[The REPORTERS look at each other in amazed confusion.]

What may appear as large changes now will not seem so big in the future. After a few years, you will get used to it. In order to forge ahead into the 21st century, we must embrace the new ideals of an enlightened society. By standing together, we can ensure that each and every citizen can exist in a harmonious environment, free from religions that might offend others, free from religious symbols that remind us of our past, and free from chlorofluorocarbons that destroy the ozone layer, causing global warming. Thank you for supporting me. May our efforts be blessed by whatever higher being you believe in. And if you don't believe in a higher being, well that's okay too. Thank you again.

[MAYOR exits, followed by REPORTERS and crowd. Outdoor city scene lights off. Spotlight on ANGEL.]

ANGEL

You might ask why the nice people of this little town would elect a person with beliefs so different from their own. Some might say the people were tricked with lies, while others might say the alternative was no better. The truth is, the voters made their selection based upon their desire for economic prosperity, instead of voting for the candidate that prays before each decision he makes. The voters decided to rely on a person, instead of relying on God for their economic prosperity.

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

[ANGEL crosses to down stage right. Lights up on living room scene (left half of stage). A senior couple is seated on a couch, looking through an old photo album.]

Not everyone voted for the new mayor, though. Across town is an elderly couple that can remember the way it used to be - when people were allowed to worship the Lord at home or church, and celebrate Christmas with traditions that have been passed down for centuries. They remember that Christmas is a time to celebrate the arrival of the Baby Jesus, and a time to thank God who came to earth in the form of man, all the time knowing that He would die on a cross, becoming the final sacrifice for man's sin.

Let's join them as they look through an old photo album, recalling Christmases of years passed.

[Spotlight off ANGEL.]

WOMAN

Remember this one? Can you believe she was ever that small?

MAN

She was a precious little girl.

WOMAN

And look at all the gifts she received that year. She sure made out like a bandit.

Oh, look at the Christmas tree. I think that was the prettiest tree we ever had.

MAN

I would have to agree.

WOMAN

Do you remember this one? You put up so many lights on the house that year. I thought we were going to have to sell the house to pay the electric bill.

MAN

I admit I went a little overboard that year.

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

WOMAN

A little overboard? That's an understatement.

And look at the Nativity Scene. What year was that?

MAN

Eighty, I think.

WOMAN

That means we had a Nativity Scene in our front yard for over thirty years.

I still can't believe the mayor had a police officer tell us we had to take it down this year.

MAN

I can't either. I wish I had the name of a good lawyer.

WOMAN

Don't worry, Dear. I'm sure things will be different when we elect a new mayor.

MAN

You're probably right.

[Spotlight on ANGEL.]

ANGEL

Unfortunately, they're both wrong. The mayor gets re-elected, and during her time in office manages to remove most references to God, the father; the Holy Spirit; and Jesus, the Lamb of God. The mayor was right. The people do get used to the changes, and don't complain about the first change, or the second change. The other changes come, and no one says a thing. The citizens just quietly sit by, while their religious liberties are taken away.

A few years ago, this nice couple had a Nativity Scene in their front yard. No one complained about it, but they were told to remove the display because it might offend one of their neighbors. Instead of fighting, they complied. They thought they would be able to have a Nativity Scene in the future. They were wrong. It's sad to realize that no new memories will be added to their Christmas album this year.

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

[Lights off living room scene.]

It is amazing how quickly things can change; how quickly things can be forgotten, or taken for granted. Who would have thought that the real reason for the Christmas season could be forgotten so quickly?

[Spotlight off ANGEL.]

[OPTIONAL MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION OR SOLOIST]

[Spotlight on ANGEL.]

ANGEL

Join me now as we travel back in time, over two thousand years ago, to a little town known as Bethlehem. A young couple, Joseph and Mary, had traveled many miles from their home. The young girl gave birth to the Son of God. The couple called Him Jesus, and He will grow up, and perform many miracles to His Father's glory. Although He would ultimately give His life to save mankind from their sin, now He is a baby, lying in a manger, for there was no room for the couple at the inn.

[Lights up on Nativity Scene. Spotlight off ANGEL.]

Such a humble beginning for the Son of God. I wonder if Mary knew the future - that her baby would be the way to God, the Father.

I was not the angel that was sent to tell Mary about the baby she would deliver, and I was not the angel that appeared to Joseph, reassuring him that the baby was God's Son. But I was sent as a messenger from God to shepherds that were watching over their flock by night. When I appeared, they were afraid. I don't believe they had ever seen an angel before. I told them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with me a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The shepherds left quickly, went to the city of David, which is Bethlehem, found the young couple and the baby in a manger, and knelt down and worshipped Him.

A Politically-Incorrect Christmas

In the distance are some kings from the East. They have traveled for many weeks in search of the Holy Child. A star guided them on their journey. I can see them now...

[House lights on as the THREE KINGS enter the sanctuary during the music. They walk down the aisle to the Nativity Scene. They bow, present their gifts, and join the cast on stage. House lights off.]

[Music: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"]

ANGEL

What an unusual scene! Shepherds and kings, the poor and the rich, all worshipping the Christ Child. I wonder if they had any idea how important this event was. I wonder if they thought about it often, if they celebrated on the anniversary of this most holy event. I wonder what type of persecution they would go through to tell others about the Christ Child.

[ANGEL crosses to center stage, and walks down stage to address the audience.]

I also wonder if you have any idea how important this event was. I wonder if you think about it often, if you celebrate this most holy event on Christmas Day. I wonder what type of persecution you would go through to tell others about the Christ Child. God, the Father has given you free will. You have the freedom to talk or be silent, to celebrate or sit quietly, to believe in Jesus or to deny Him a place your heart. What will you and your family do on the 25th? It is my prayer that all of you will rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child, remembering why He came, why He suffered and died, and why He will come again - not as a child, but as the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Please join us as we sing...

[Song: Chorus of "O Come All Ye Faithful"]

ALL

O come let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

[Lights off.]

THE END