


## Peace is Here Today

**Host** (*posted at one lectern or forward of stage*) explains that a story will unfold and that there will come times when those in the congregation who are dressed as story characters will be invited to come sit up on the stage.

 Instrumental music might begin the Pageant, continuing until the arrival of Olive, fading out gently as Scripture Reader begins

### Scene 1: Near A Construction Sight

*As Olive the Architect enters and takes a good look around, the narrator proceeds:*

Reader: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to their own city.

Olive: Let's have a look here....so this is the offending stable. Hmmmmm....

*Burl bursts in from Entry, begins speaking before he reaches the stage.*

Burl: Hey Olive, I came as soon as I got the message. Is it true? We got another job?

Olive: Burl, my friend! Burl the builder! Yes, it's true, we have a job – a gig - a mission if we choose to accept it.

Burl: Great! What is it this time? Have you designed another grand colonnade for me to build? Another filigreed portico made of Cyprus? Another guest villa with carved olive-wood door? What are we building?

Olive: Peace.

Burl: A piece of what?

Olive: Not a piece of something. Peace. As in "Peace Be With You"? (*no reaction*) "The Peace that Passes All Understanding"? (*still no light bulb*) "I got peace like a river?" (*Uses campfire actions to illustrate. Light goes on*)

Burl: Ohhh! Lion and Lamb stuff! Great! (*confidently*) We shall build Peace! (*assurance turns to bafflement*) How do we do that..?

Olive: I am not sure yet. You see the owner of that Manor there (*gestures to the Manor*) is our client. When she bought the place she thought it would be a quiet retreat from the world. Then she finds out that her neighbour here runs a busy Inn and stable. THEN Caesar "invites" everyone born here in Bethlehem to return and be counted, and her whole neighbourhood turns into a hotel district! She didn't bargain for that! (*quoting her*) "And it's not just the infestation of humanity that is so terribly upsetting dahling;

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Theme song from the Gathered Pageant by Bari Castle and Linnea Good

Linnea Good

$\bullet = 110-120$   
*Brightly, like a show-opener*

1 G Am7 G/D D C/D D G You

5 G D Em Csus2 C  
say you're feel - ing crowd - ed, with a nag - ging back and ache? Your  
drums of war are sound - ing, the old ways lost in new. And

9 G Am7 G/B Dsus4 D  
day is marr'd by stran - gers from the mo - ment that you wake. Well,  
War is a great an - them, while the notes of Peace seem few. But