

North Lancashire Passion 2019

Written and Devised by Emma Rucastle

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*All cast wear colourful tops. Labels round necks identify the different characters. The cast are around the space, some of them seated in audience. Voice collage from around the space. John walks in and watches everything that happens. Voice collage, grows in intensity. Voice 1 – brings it to a halt.*

**Voice 1:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of the world. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**John:** *(Directly to the audience)* I wrote that. When I started to tell the story of Jesus Christ. It's the beginning of my version of the good news. I'm John, by the way. John of "Matthew, Mark, Luke and...John" and you're going to be following my gospel – mostly - today. *(We hear the Soloist 1 clearing his/her throat – and/or starting to sing.)* OK – here we go!

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*Matthew enters.*

**Matthew:** I wrote that. *(To Luke)* And I didn't join in with it...

*Luke (glares at Matthew) and leads a crowd – not always the same people - down the central aisle, including Mary and Joseph, who are anxiously looking for Jesus. Luke peels off to stand with Matthew.*

**Luke:** It's my bit again now – Jesus is 12 and his mum and dad can't find him. He's been missing for 3 days, so, you can imagine they're frantic. *(Mary and Joseph are asking audience if they have seen Jesus. Luke speaks to audience too.)* Have any of you seen him?

*12 year old Jesus appears with a several teachers and priests following and listening to him. Mary and Joseph shout to him and he comes to them.*

**Mary:** Son, why have you treated us like this?

**Luke (taking over):** Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.

**Jesus:** Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?

**Luke:** *(as the Holy Family exit)* Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them, But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men.

*John The Baptist enters to singing which is repeated as he baptises a range of people – some of who step forward from where they have been seated in audience.*

**John The Baptist:** *(over the music)* I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

**Mark:** *(surprised)* I wrote that!

**Matthew:** So did I.

**Mark:** *(deflated)* Oh.

*Music continues. Jesus comes forward to be baptised. As he is baptised, everything freezes and the singing stops.*

**All:** This is my son, my beloved, with whom I am well-pleased.  
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**Jesus (to his disciples):** If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of Truth.

**Jesus and John together (Jesus speaking to disciples, John to audience):** If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.

**Jesus:** I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace.

**Jesus and John together:** In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

*Jesus kneels and looks towards heaven; the apostles move to one side and sleep.*

**Jesus:** Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

*Whole cast gentle music.*

*Jesus continues praying, the apostles continue sleeping. After some time (as music continues), Jesus moves into centre of church, apostles awake and move with him. Soldiers and Judas approach Jesus. Judas kisses him and the arrest takes place and Jesus is led away. Music stops. The apostles scatter, walking nervously about. Peter paces at the front.*

**Voice:** You are not one of his disciples, are you?

**Peter:** I am not.

*Peter moves elsewhere in the space and continue moving. We hear (off) The High Priest's voice, followed by Jesus'.*

**High Priest:** Tell me the purpose of your teaching.

**Jesus:** I have always spoken openly to the world. I have never spoken in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.

*The crowd, ashamed, turn away. Peter continues pacing.*

**Another voice:** You are not one of his disciples, are you?

**Peter:** I am not.

*Peter continues pacing.*

**Another voice:** Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?

**John:** Again, Peter denied it and at that moment a cock began to crow.

*Peter moves off in deep distress. Jesus is led on. Pilate takes centre stage. The crowd comes closer, menacing and dangerous.*

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**Voice 4:** Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdelene stood outside the tomb, crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

**Angel:** Woman, why are you crying?

**Mary Mag:** They have taken my Lord away and I do not know where they have laid him.

*Jesus enters and stands beside her.*

**Jesus:** Woman, why are you crying?

**Mary Mag:** Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.

**Jesus:** Mary.

**Mary Mag:** Rabboni!

**Jesus:** Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and sisters and tell them I am returning to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God.

*Music, during which the crowd has regathers, laughing, happy, around Jesus. Music continues as Jesus walks about, introducing himself to cast and members of the audience. Much happiness. When music finishes, Jesus leaves and cast continue celebrating.*