

LOVE'S CHRISTMAS GARDEN

By Hedio Schutz, Past Worthy Matron of Robstown Chapter, Texas

Cash of Characters:

Christmas, played by Associate Matron
Star of the East, played by Adah
Friendship, played by Ruth
Joy, played by Esther
Giver, played by Marshal
Peace, played by Martha
Charity, played by Electa
Love, played by Conductress
General Helper, played by Associate Conductress

Christmas: (Approaches East and Faces West, remains standing)

Let's give the world an O.E.S. garden
at Christmas time--

A garden of fidelity, constancy, peace,
joy, hope, and love so dear;

A garden bright with blossoms that
tell of joyous cheer.

These flowers of friendship, of glad
good will and love,

Let's give the world a garden, though
the skies are dreary above--

Star of the East, who guides our
steps aright,

Bring forth thy wondrous guiding light.

Star of the East: (Approaches East, faces West to speak, then steps next to Christmas)

Over the East was a lovely star;
And it led brave pilgrims from afar.
The star of our Redeemer, it ne'er grows dim,
For shining in glory, it leads to Him,
So, Sweet Peace, your offering bring
To make our Eastern Star love a thing supreme.

Peace: (Bearing or drawing tree from the anteroom, goes to East, placing tree in front of Christmas and Star of the East. She speaks, then steps next to Star).

I am the peace and hope so blest,
And I come to you gladly your Christmas guest.
The evergreen tree is a token true
Of the peace and trustful hope that is given you.
Oh, Joy, I call you this happy night
To deck our tree with starbeams bright.
And lo, these rays with the singing angels throng
Proclaim the joy which unto us was borne.

Joy: (Bears her stars to tree, placing them as nicely as possible as she says her lines, then steps next to Christmas, beginning the semi-circle.)

I am the joy our star rays give,
To those who in our Order's teachings live.
These rays of blue, gold, silver, green, and red
Tell of the joy which of old was shed.
Friendship with it constancy, too, is our guest at Christmas time.
What, pray tell us, is your gift sublime?

Friendship: (Brings garland and drapes gold chain first, then silver one as she speaks, then steps next to Peace.)

This golden chain I place upon our tree
For the joy that love and constancy gives to you and me.
And a silver garland of gladness that the star foretold
To the Three Wise Men in history old.
Now, where'er friendship you will find
Charity with its Goodwill is in step just behind.

Charity: (Bears her bobbles East and places them on the tree as prettily as possible, then steps next to Joy.)

I bring radiant hope at Christmas-tide,
That gladdens a dreary world so wide;
And with these lovely bobbles gay,
I will deck the tree for a happy day."

Charity (turning slightly, says):

The flower of giving with a generous heart,
In our garden must truly have part;
For nothing can make us so glad to be living
As to share in Christmas-tide giving.

Giver: (Brings her gifts which she has gathered from among those who have gifts or gifts which have been prepared for all present) and says (next to Friendship in semi-circle):

Yes, Christmas-time means unselfish living;
And the greatest joy is the joy of giving.
So happy givers you all may be,
For there's kindness that comes with the Christmas-tree.

(Turning to Chapter, she says):

Chapter, your lovely tree behold,
A token from the forests old,
With beautiful starbeams bright,
Those lovely colors fair,
The hope of Christmas-tide declare--
And gifts that tell of thoughts so kind,
Under my lovely tree you'll find.
But wait, another guest have we,
It is LOVE who lights our tree!

Love (Marches to the tree, bearing her light--all lights have been lowered as she enters--and touches the light to the candles or her torch to topmost bough. Associate Conductress switches on lights if electric bulbs are used as LOVE touches torch to tree.) Love says:

So I give to the world an O.E.S. Garden of Happiness
To light this weary world with Christmas bliss.
And see! In the garden where these flowers grow,
The Star of olden will shed its mystic glow.

(Star steps in front of tree and remains. Love steps next to Charity.) All say, led by Christmas:

Now let's give the world a garden,
Flowers of hope and joy abiding;
Love and peace to bloom for aye.
Christmas garden, oh Star garden,
Bless, oh bless, our joyous day!

O. E. S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARY

SETTING: Any appropriate background suggesting a Christmas Garden or just the usual chapter room as for any Christmas program, as the semi-circle formed by the officers will be the background for the tree during the ceremony.

Necessities: (1) A large silver star for Adah; (2) a not too large Christmas evergreen, covered with icicles if desired, placed on a cart which can be drawn in or mounted on a snow-covered or green tripod for Martha; (3) stars to be placed on tree in O.E.S. colors, blue, gold, silver, green and red or either gold and silver ones with tinsel of the different colors hanging there from for Esther; (4) garlands of gold and silver, one each for Ruth; (5) Christmas tree bobbles of O.E.S. colors for Electa; (6) nicely wrapped gifts for Marshal; (7) a lighted candle or torch made by placing a small flashlight on a silver covered stick and wrapping red tissue paper over the light to represent a flame; (8) electric light bulbs or candles should be placed on tree by the Associate Conductress while the Marshal is placing her gifts around the tree or while she is bringing them to the tree. If this is done without confusion it will not interfere then.

COSTUMES: Dresses as worn by the officers for initiations. If formal evening dresses in appropriate colors are worn it will add greatly to the beauty and impressiveness of the ceremony. This is not necessary if the sentiment is properly brought out with sincerity. Dignity and grace add much.

MUSIC: Soft music throughout. As officers come from anteroom bearing their decorations, "Star of Bethlehem" or "Star of the East" may be played and continued softly (very) as each speaks. As last word of ceremony is spoken Organist softly begins to play "Silent Night, Holy Night," and officers in semi-circle begin singing. Sing whole song. As the last words are finished the officers, led by the Star, march slowly to their stations to the strains of any Christmas carol. Members may join in singing several carols if so desired. Lights turned up.