

Clothed in Christ Pantomime

Basic message:

When we are clothed with Christ, that “clothing” fits perfectly with who we are both as humans and as individuals; it’s where we discover who we are.

General Plot:

A traveler passes groups of others who wear certain things and judge her for not having them. She adopts all of their items but none of them fit. Jesus helps her take those items off, and bears the pain of them not fitting. He gives her his coat instead, which fits perfectly.

Characters:

Traveler (comes from upstage left)

Jesus (starts backstage/enters upstage)

2-4 onlookers (start upstage right, in a neutral pose [crouched/backs to the audience])

Prop/Costume Needs:

Walking Stick (normal sized)

3-5 smaller sticks (half the size of the walking stick)

3-5 matching vests, cloaks, sweaters, or scarves (can be ugly and/or silly)

3-5 matching hats (can be ugly and/or silly)

3-5 matching masks (blank theatrical type)

nice coat (decorative rather than warm)

Presets:

Scarves/vests – Up Right corner

hats – up left corner

small sticks – down left corner

masks – down right corner

regular sized walking stick and nice coat – with Jesus backstage/upstage

Blocking:

The Traveler begins her journey, circling around the stage.

She walks by a group of onlookers in scarves (or vests, or sweaters, or something).

They all laugh and point at her lack of scarf/vest/cloak/sweater.

She realizes they’re laughing at her, and finds one to wear.

They appraise her, and walk away.

Once they’re gone, she starts to fuss with it: it’s itchy, it’s hot, it doesn’t fit.

The Traveler continues her journey.

She passes by a group of people in hats, who are shocked and offended at her lack of hat. They confront her.

She quickly finds a hat and covers her head.

They look her over critically

They make adjustments to how she’s wearing it, and check several times to make sure she’s wearing it right.

When they're satisfied, they walk away – but check on her over their shoulders as they go. Traveler she fusses with hat. She almost takes it off, but then she glances at where they disappeared and decides she's too afraid to take it off.

The Traveler continues her journey.

She passes by a group of people with absurdly short walking sticks. They see her and look at her in pity, as if there's something terribly wrong with her.

She is unsure what the problem is, until one of them hands her a stick for her journey and encourages her to use it as a staff. She has to bend over uncomfortably to use it, and she straightens up, thinking this can't possibly be what they meant, but they usher her back to using it, with exaggerated kindness. She walks with it, and they wave goodbye, blowing kisses as they too leave – impressed with their own kindness as they watch her leave with her tiny staff.

The Traveler tries to continue her journey, bent double with her stick, still uncomfortable in the ill-fitting hat and itchy scarf.

She passes a group of people in masks, who see her and quickly look away in embarrassment, as if she's come naked. She straightens up from her staff, straightens her hat and vest, and finally realizes it's her face that's the problem.

Hastily she looks for a mask.

She finds it, but by the time she has it on, they are gone. She reaches under it to scratch – it's clearly uncomfortable – but she doesn't take it off.

She continues her journey, but all of the ill-fitting items make it too difficult, and she struggles with them. She tries to take the pieces off, but she can't, and finally she collapses under them.

Jesus enters with a staff of his own that is the right size.

He bends down and touches her shoulder in comfort. He offers to take her ill-fitting items away, and after some encouragement she nods.

He removes her ill-fitting items one by one, and she marvels at the freedom with each one.

He takes her tiny staff and fits it together with his, making the shape of a cross. He invites her to hang all of her items on it, and after some hesitation and encouragement, she does.

He carries them away, and she marvels at the freedom – and the vulnerability. As he goes, the pain he's bearing increases until he, too, collapses under the weight.

She turns away in horror.

The Traveler sits alone, grieving, and cold without any of her items.

Jesus rises behind her, leaving the cross and items on the ground.

He puts his hand on her shoulder again. She jumps up and greets him joyfully.

He removes his own coat and gives it to her.

She is surprised to find it fits perfectly.

People from the former groups appear at each corner, still looking at her judgmentally, and she becomes insecure, looking back to possibly reclaim the items hanging on the cross, but Jesus turns her face towards him and reminds her of what she wears now, confirming that it is enough and she doesn't need those things.

She begins to journey with him, leaning on him instead of the stick, and enjoying the journey. She greets people with the compassion she's been shown.

As she passes the groups, one mask person takes off their mask and begins to follow, one stick person, one hat person, and one scarf/vest person do the same. Jesus leads them joyfully out.