

Christmas Pageant 2015

Places before the pageant begins:

At the podium: Narrators

In the stage left pit: Angels

In the stage center pit: Chime Choir

In the stage right pit: Instrument Choir & Animals

In front rows stage right: Herod, Priests, Roman Soldiers

Back stage left: Gabriel, Innkeeper, Old Women

In back, top of the stairs: Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Kings and Kings' Entourage

OPENING MUSIC: Dennis Patton

ADVENT COLLECT/Intercessions (Clergy or Teens)

THE ANNUNCIATION

*(During the singing of **O Come, All Ye Faithful #83, vss. 1 and 6** the NARRATORS go to the podium, GABRIEL to center stage left, MARY goes down to the microphone on the stairs, facing GABRIEL)*

NARRATOR: “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a maiden betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David; and the maiden’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said...”

GABRIEL: Hail, O favored one; the Lord is with you!”

NARRATOR: “But she was greatly troubled by the saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.”

Messiah’s Lullaby sung by Mary and Gabriel (with CHIME CHOIR)

GABRIEL: “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.

MARY: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

THE PROCLAMATION

*(All sing **O Little Town of Bethlehem #79, vss. 1 and 2**) while the ROMAN SOLDIERS down from their waiting places and stand on stage center/right. GABRIEL joins the other angels on stage left. JOSEPH comes down and stands beside MARY.)*

NARRATOR: “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.”

ROMAN SOLDIERS: “Hear ye, hear ye! By the imperial edict of Caesar Augustus, everyone must return to the place of his birth to be enrolled with the authorities and pay a tax!”

NARRATOR: “And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.”

THE JOURNEY AND THE BIRTH

*(All sing **What Child Is This? #115 (vss. 1 and 3) with instrument Choir.** The ROMAN SOLDIERS stand to the right of the crèche; MARY and JOSEPH proceed down the aisle standing in front of the inn. OLD WOMAN stands stage left just in front and to the side of inn. INNKEEPER stands behind the inn door.)*

NARRATOR: “And while they were there, the time came for Mary to be delivered. But there was no place for them in the inn.”

(JOSEPH knocks)

INNKEEPER: “Who is it? Can I help you?”

JOSEPH: “My name is Joseph. This is Mary, my wife, who is with child. We have come a long way.”

INNKEEPER: “There is no room here; I am sorry.”

(INNKEEPER closes doors. MARY and JOSEPH turn. The OLD WOMAN calls to MARY and JOSEPH.)

OLD WOMAN: “Good sir and lady, there is a stable around the corner where you might find shelter for the night.”

JOSEPH: “Thank you. We will remember your graciousness.”

(MARY and JOSEPH walk into the manger where the chairs are placed. MARY and JOSEPH sit. INNKEEPER and OLD WOMEN remain, stage left.)

NARRATOR: “And Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger...”

***Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine** sung by Mary and Joseph and played with Chime Choir.*

THE SHEPHERDS

*(All sing **Angels We Have Heard On High #96, vss. 1 and 4).** MARY is brought the BABY. The STAR goes up behind the stable set; ANIMALS come in from their seats in the pit stage right. The SHEPHERDS come down the aisle to the microphone on the stairs. GABRIEL comes out to meet them.*

NARRATOR: “And in that region there were shepherds in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. And an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the Glory of

the Lord shone round about them. And they were filled with fear. And the Angel said to them..."

GABRIEL: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

THE ANGELS

*(All sing **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #89, vss. 1 and 4**), while all the ANGELS stand with GABRIEL.)*

NARRATOR: "And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying..."

ANGELS: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to all."

***Sing Noel** sung by ANGELS and SHEPHERDS.*

LEAD SHEPHERD: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

ALL GATHER AT THE MANGER

*(Congregation sings **Away in the Manger #101, vss. 1 and 2** while the SHEPHERDS and ANGELS are led by GABRIEL to places in front of MARY and JOSEPH.)*

NARRATOR: "And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

***The Friendly Beasts** sung by the children accompanied on the guitar. The THREE KINGS and their ENTOURAGE are at the top of the stairs ready to process in.*

THE THREE KINGS

NARRATOR: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem."

*(**We Three Kings #128**, KINGS and ENTOURAGE come down to microphone on stairs. KINGS and ENTOURAGE sing verses, congregation sings refrain. Instrument Choir plays along. HEROD and PRIESTS stand downstage center/right. After song, KINGS come down steps and look up at HEROD.)*

KING I: "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?"

KING II: "For we have seen his star in the East..."

KING III: "And have come to worship him."

NARRATOR: “When Herod the king hear this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him, and he assembled the chief priests and scribes of the people.”

HEROD: “Where is the Christ to be born?”

PRIEST I: “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet...”

PRIEST II: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.”

NARRATOR: “Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying...”

HEROD: “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

(During the next narration, the KINGS act out what the NARRATOR says as it is being read.)

NARRATOR: “When they had heard the King they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced with great joy; and going to the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts: gold...(gold is placed)...and frankincense...(frankincense is placed)...and myrrh...(myrrh is placed.)”

*(All sing Offertory **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, #105**, followed by the **Doxology**, as the offering is presented) and then **Silent Night #111**. Conclude with Blessing, Photo Op and **Closing Hymn #56 vss. 1-3**)*

The assembled children then follow the star and process out of the hall and across the street to the Great Hall. Order of procession with assistance by J2A and YAC:

STAR
GABRIEL AND ANGELS
SHEPHERDS
FRIENDLY BEASTS
MARY, JOSEPH, JESUS
PRIESTS, ROMAN SOLDIERS
HEROD, KINGS, ENTOURAGE
INNKEEPER, OLD WOMEN
NARRATORS
CHIME CHOIR, FLUTE CHOIR