

Children's Pageant and Carols

Narrator 1: Welcome to our Children's Pageant as we tell again that familiar yet somehow always new story of Christ's birth.

After the dance of the angels, please join us in singing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," number 89 in your hymnal.

"It Came upon a Midnight Clear" (2 verses on piano only, verses 1 and 2 congregation and children with piano)

2 instrumental verses: Duet dance—2 Angel Dancers

-meanwhile, all other kids assemble in the back

2 sung verses (1 and 2) Angel Dancers go down the center aisle and lead children in procession to the front

Scene 1: Gabriel's Visit

(The Angel Gabriel leads Mary and Joseph to center.)

Narrator 1: The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David. The woman's name was Mary. And Gabriel came to her and said,

Gabriel: Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.

Narrator 1: But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and ever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.

Narrator 1: Then Mary said,

Mary: Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

Narrator 1: Then the angel departed from her.

(All of the angels join the tableau)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Verses 1 and 7: children sing with mountain dulcimer, Johnny on finger cymbals)

Scene 2: The Innkeepers' Welcome

(The innkeepers join the tableau)

Narrator 2: In those days a decree went out from the Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the City of David called Bethlehem. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Mary: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(During Mary's narration, Joseph takes Jesus from behind the manger where he is hidden and holds him and then places him in the manger in view of all.)

(Shepherds and animals join the tableau)

“Away in a Manger” (Verses 1-3: Children sing with piano (solo on verse 2))

Scene 3: The Angel Talks to the Shepherds

Narrator 3: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Angel of the Lord: (during speech, angel bells are played): Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Narrator 3: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to all people.”

Please join us in singing “Angels we have heard on high,” number 96 in your hymnals.

“Angels we have heard on high” (Verses 1 and 2: children and congregation sing with piano)

-Lucy and Simone lead little angels, shepherds, and animals in freestyle/follow-the-leader procession down center aisle and up side aisles, then they rejoin the tableau. Star and Magi stay in back.

Scene 4: The Shepherds and the Magi Seek the Baby

(During narration, The Star processes down the aisle, followed by the Magi. The Star should stand just behind the tableau.)

Narrator 4: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds had told them.

All this took place in the time of King Herod. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

Magi Speaker: Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

Narrator 4: Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem. When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” (Verses 1 and 3: children sing with baritone ukulele, percussion on choruses)

Conclusion

Narrator 5: This is where our Christmas story ends, but it is not the end of the story. We know that Jesus’ story continues to touch people of all backgrounds, just as it touched the people in Bethlehem and the Magi from far away. The light that shone for the Magi shines for us still, guiding us towards Jesus, towards hope and new life.

Please join us in singing “Silent Night,” number 111 in your hymnal.

(As concluding paragraph is read, Angel dancers pass candlelight to each side of the congregation. Children switch on their electric candles.)

“Silent Night”—all sing as candlelight is passed throughout the congregation, lights dim (3 verses: children and congregation with piano, Ella on violin)

(Rev. Kurt makes his comments before dismissing children)