

Pageant Script 2015

Prelude:

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Call To Worship:

Advent wreath is lit while narrator proceeds.

NARRATOR #1:

This is the day of joy in the season of Advent. This joy is built on the hope of the prophets and the peace brought to us by the Prince of Peace Himself. Today, we are going to joyfully celebrate the amazing story of His birth in Bethlehem. We celebrate this most special birth of all time to remind ourselves of the hope, peace, joy, and love that this tiny baby brings to the world.

For Jesus' birth was a fulfillment of a promise God made at the very beginning when he created the world. Jesus is the HOPE that all of creation has been waiting for. Jesus brings PEACE between God and His people. And today, the heavens and earth will be consumed with JOY because, after many years of waiting, God's promises are finally coming true — a savior, the messiah — is here to be among the people and teach everyone that the Kingdom of God has come. This man would be God's greatest gift to mankind — his son Jesus Christ.

To prepare the world for this man, God asked different men and women to prophesy, or foretell, that Jesus was coming. These people were called "The prophets." This is what the great Old Testament prophet Isaiah said:

PROPHET #1:

"Yahweh himself will give you a miraculous sign. A virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel, God With Us." Isaiah 7:13-14

PROPHET #2:

For to us a Child will be born. To us a Son will be given...His name will be called wonderful teacher, powerful God, Father who lives forever, prince of peace. His rule and peace will never end. Isaiah 9:6-7

PROPHET #3:

A messenger is calling out, "Prepare the way for the Lord! Make a straight road through it for our God. Every valley will be filled in. Every mountain and hill will be made level. The rough ground will be smoothed out. The rocky places will be made flat. Then the glory of the Lord will appear. And everyone will see it. Yahweh has spoken." Isaiah 40:1-5

Prayer: - Write it and let Steve Pray it

Prelude actors sit

Song:

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus * (*A Magus takes their place onstage.*)

Scene II: Prologue

Five Magi are in bed asleep, facing downstage. Lights are as low as feasible. Two other magi enter with a lantern, and gently shake their sleeping friend.

Magi #1: Brother Magi, wake up... Brother, you must wake up. I tell you, there is something worth waking up for in the skies tonight.

Magi #2: *(Peeks open eyes, then shuts them tightly.)* It is still dark, and I am still asleep.

Magi #3: It is because it is dark that you must awaken and come outside right away. Quickly, before the sunrise!

Magi #2: I have seen the night sky a million times.

Magi #1: But you have never seen the night sky as it is now. Something extraordinary is happening.

Magi #2: If it is a comet, it will be there tomorrow, and I have seen hundreds of falling stars.

Magi #3: This is neither a comet, nor a star that falls. It is a new star in the West.

Magi #2: *Sitting up quickly.* There is no such thing as a new star.

Magi #1: Is that so, sleepyhead? Well then, come and see. Tell me what this bright new object is in the West if it is not a star.

Magi #2: This had better be truly AMAZING, or you are going to take my night duty for a month!

Narrator #2: The time has come. For centuries, Yahweh has been preparing humanity for this moment. It has been 2,000 years since Yahweh's covenant with Abraham. 2,000 years since God promised Abraham that his offspring would become a great nation as countless as the stars. God promised Abraham that someone from that nation would then be a blessing to all who live. He comes. It has been 1,000 years since Yahweh promised David that one of his offspring would reign on Israel's throne forever. He comes. God is about to keep both those promises – the promise to Abraham and the promise to David. The importance of the One about to be born is so great that even the stars in the sky announce his coming.

Magi #2: *Coming back in.* This IS amazing. This is unlike anything we have ever seen before. This is...

Magi #1: Worth waking up for? I told you it was worth seeing!

Magi #2: But if this is correct, then a great king is about to be born in the nation of Israel. I wonder if they know.

Magi #3: This star can be seen across the whole earth. They can see it in Israel.

Magi #2: But the god of Israel has told his people to trust in Him alone and not in what they see in the stars. Even if they see this, it will have no meaning for them.

Magi #1: We must tell them. This is the most important thing we have ever seen.

Magi #2: You are right. They must be told. And who better than us to explain it all!

Magi #3: I would like to pay homage to a king so great that he moves the stars.

Magi #2: Servants! Prepare for a journey. A very long journey!

Song:

Star of Wonder or Song of the Star

SCENE III: Annunciation

Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Narrator

NARRATOR #3:

Now when God was ready to give Jesus to the world, He sent one of His greatest Angels, Gabriel, to a teenage girl named Mary. Mary lived in the little northern village of Nazareth and was engaged to be married to a craftsman named Joseph. When Mary was alone, the angel Gabriel appeared before her to bring her a message from God that would change the universe.

GABRIEL:

Mary. The LORD has given you special favor. The LORD is with you!

NARRATOR #3:

Mary was at first frightened and confused by this greeting of the Angel of God. But then Gabriel told her that God had chosen her to give birth to Jesus.

GABRIEL:

Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. He will rule over his people forever.

MARY:

I will serve the LORD with all that I am.

NARRATOR #3:

Now Mary was engaged to Joseph who was a godly man. When Mary became pregnant he did not want to make life hard for her, so he was planning on divorcing her quietly. But, the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph one night as he slept. In Joseph's dream, the Angel of the Lord told him of God's plan.

GABRIEL:

Joseph, God has chosen you to be the father of his son, Jesus. And Mary will be his mother.

NARRATOR #3:

When Joseph awoke, he went to Mary with joy in his heart. He took Mary home to be his wife. And so Mary and Joseph went back to living their quiet lives, keeping God's secret only between themselves.

Song:

*Magnificat**

King Jesus Is His Name

Scene IV: Womb at the Inn

Mary, Joseph, Inn Keepers, Caesar, Guards

NARRATOR #4:

Now, at that time, the land they lived in was ruled by the Romans, who were mighty, but wicked rulers of an enormous empire. The chief ruler, a man named Caesar Augustus.

CAESAR AUGUSTUS:

I am Caesar Augustus the Emperor of ROME and, grand nephew of Julius Caesar. I hereby decree that every man and woman must return to the towns in which they were born and register. That is all...

NARRATOR #4:

That way, Caesar would know every person who lived in his country, so they could be counted.

And so Joseph and Mary left Nazareth to return to the small village of Bethlehem, about 90 miles away, where Joseph had been born. It was a difficult journey across the hot land, but after six long days and nights, they finally reached Bethlehem. By then Mary was very tired and about to give birth.

But when they arrived, the city was already very crowded with other people who had come back to be registered, and all of the inns were full. But Joseph sought shelter at several inns anyway, in the hope that someone might spare a room for Mary.

JOSEPH:

We have traveled a long way and my wife is very tired. Is there any room at your inn?

INNKEEPER #1:

I'm sorry. I have no room.

NARRATOR #4:

And so it went at every inn.

INNKEEPER #2:

Sorry, my inn is full!

NARRATOR #4:

But one innkeeper looked at Mary, who was great with child, and felt sorry for her. He said:

INNKEEPER #3:

I have no room in my inn. But you may stay in my stable out in the back.

JOSEPH:

We thank you very much for your kindness, sir.

NARRATOR #4:

The stable was for animals – for the donkeys, cows and sheep that people had brought with them. But Mary and Joseph were grateful for any shelter they could get that night in the little town of Bethlehem.

They stayed where the cows and the donkeys and the horses stayed. There, in the stable, amongst the chickens and the donkeys and the cows, in the quiet of the silent night, God gave the world His wonderful gift. Mary gave birth to a son. After centuries of waiting, the Savior of the world, Jesus was born! The King of all kings had come, and he was wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a feeding trough.

THE CAST:

Hallelujah!

Song:

Silent Night*

Transition Music: *Chorus Hmm/ooo Angels we have heard on high*

Scene V: Angels & Shepherds

NARRATOR #5:

That same night there were shepherds watching their flocks of sheep on the steep hills surrounding Bethlehem. The shepherds were poor men who wore rough, simple clothing. For them, nights were usually dark, cold and lonely.

But the night that Jesus was born, the Angels of God suddenly appear above them in the sky.

The shepherds have never seen an angel, and they're frightened. I mean, they're really, really scared. We're talking these guys are totally petrified.

But the Angel of God soon comforts them, saying ...

ANGEL #1:

Fear not, good shepherds, for I have wonderful news! Today, in the city of Bethlehem, a child has been born. This child shall grow up to be our king not just any king, but the KING of ALL kings, the world's savior!

SHEPHERD #1:

Please tell us where we can find him!

ANGEL #2:

This is how you will know him. The young king is the only child in Bethlehem wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a feeding trough.

NARRATOR #5:

Then suddenly a multitude of heavenly angels appeared in the sky! They proclaimed the great news of God's gift to the world. "Glory to the newborn king!" they exclaimed. "He shall bring peace and goodwill to all the earth!"

Once the amazing chorus was over and the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds decided that they should go see the newborn child.

SHEPHERD #2:

Let's go to Bethlehem right away!

SHEPHERD #3:

Yes! Let's see with our own eyes this wonderful child God has told us about!

Song:

Hark The Herald Angels Sing*

Scene VI: The Magi

NARRATOR #6:

Meanwhile, the Magi had been traveling for months, following the new star. Finally, when they arrive in Bethlehem and see the newborn king, they fall on their knees in humble worship. Then they lay the valuable treasures they had brought at the feet of baby Jesus to honor Him.

MAGI #4:

We have come from the east to find the newborn king. The stars told us we could find the great king here.

MAGI #5:

First we went to Jerusalem, to the palace, because that is where kings live. But the King we seek does not live in a palace.

MAGI #6:

King Herod's advisors told us that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. And now we see that the Messiah is here, in this stable, under the bright star that guided us here.

MAGI #4:

We are bringing him precious gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Worship Through Giving Here

Choral Piece: *Mary Did You Know?*

NARRATOR #7:

The magi follow the star to a small house in Bethlehem, not a palace. There are no servants or red carpets, just a dirt floor, and a small poor family. But sure enough, in that simple little house – there sitting on his mother's knee – they find him, the great king.

And so this tiny baby, born that night under the star in Bethlehem, is born to save us all. Not just the nation of Israel that cradles Him at His birth, but as Yahweh promised Abraham, this child is born to bring the blessing of God to all people of every and any nation. The magi pay homage to the newborn king, though they come from far away, from far outside the nation of Israel. We kneel beside the magi at the cradle of the newborn king. We come from far away, from far outside the nation of Israel, and yet the promise of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love is as true and strong for us as it was for Abraham himself.

Song: What Child is This*

Scene VII: Communion

The journey Jesus begins within a stone feeding trough culminates with the rolling away of a stone door from his tomb thirtysomething years later. The child adored by shepherds, peasants and eastern strangers – that child grew, of course, to walk out the life of Emmanuel: God among us, showing us the very life of God himself, calling us to walk in His steps, calling us to walk beside him. And that path he walked led him to the cruel destiny marked out for him that from the very beginning was ever our only hope.

Emmanuel – God With Us – comes to die for us. The shepherds were out in the field overnight to tend to the birth of the new lambs. The Lamb of God is born with them so that years later, he can give His life up to save us all, just as the first Passover lambs gave their lives in order to rescue God's people from death.

The table we approach now resonates with that Passover rescue, and even surpasses it. This is the table God was working towards from the day He made His promises to Abraham, growing a nation of twelve tribes through which one Messiah would come. That Messiah, though born of the tribe of Judah, came to rescue not only the Twelve Tribes of Israel, but to be the savior of all the nations east, west, north or south. The Magi were far away and well outside the nation of Israel, yet God himself called them to make the journey to find Jesus and worship at his feet. And so now, the promise of God to Abraham is fulfilled in our own coming to the table, whether Jews or Gentiles, male or female, shepherd or magi, peasant or king. The journey begun by the magi, those quintessential outsiders, ends at this table with every nation under heaven called to come, take and eat. Let us give thanks.

VIII. JOY TO THE WORLD Movement

IX. BENEDICTION/COMMISSION

JOY!! Go Tell It on the Mountain

CAST

SPEAKING PART	PARTICIPANT
Call To Worship	Larry Mudd
Advent Wreath Lighters	Denise, Alexander, Ayana
Narrator #1	Aidan Henegar
Prophet #1	Lydia Mudd
Prophet #2	Aabigayle Whyte
Prophet #3	Hans Cahnmann
Prayer	Steve Cahnmann
Magi #1	Malik Marquez
Magi #2	Joshua Garrison
Magi #3	Owen Hengar
Narrator #2	Leila Williams
Narrator #3	Ashley Barreto
Gabriel	Raphael Oetti
Mary	Sierra Pearsall
Narrator #4	Jennifer Charlera
Caesar Augustus	Justin Rivers
Joseph	Jacob Mudd
Innkeeper #1	Della Henegar
Innkeeper #2	David Everett
Innkeeper #3	David Diehl
Narrator #5	Levi Isbell



Angel #1	Erin Eicher
Shepherd #1	Max Jessen
Angel #2	Helen Murphy
Shepherd #2	Keene Eicher
Shepherd #3	Joshua Tarifa
Narrator #6	Carter Groh
Narrator #7	Courtney Charlera
Magi #4	Aaquil Whyte
Magi #5	Abbie Eicher
Magi #6	Matthias Oettl
Communion	Allyson Tariffa
"Joy to the World" Movement	All Participants

NON SPEAKING ROLES	SCENE
Caesar's Guards	Scene IV: Jared & Ethan
Angels	Scene V: Eliana, Ava, Precious Gift, Nila, Zoe, CeCe, Ellison, Tasha, Isabella, Blythe, Alma
Shepherds	Scene V: Titus, River Jordan, Sam, Henry, Eric, Sebastian
Sheep	Scene V: Ronan, Reuben, Jake, Ike, Gabby, Atticus, Sabrina, Violet, Emma Daniel
Baby Jesus	Ari Gnagey