

Crooked Halos and Wiggly Sheep

A Classic Christmas Pageant

We Three Kings - Wise men and Stars come forward

*We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar:
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Narrator: When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The First Noel - all participants return to their seats

*The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Noel, Noel
Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.*

Crooked halos and squirmy sheep are expected in this engaging retelling of the Bible story found in the gospels of Mark and Luke.

*All adults, children and youth who would like to participate are invited to select a costume from the costumes in the lobby. Please come forward at the time noted in this program. Remain at the front until we sing **The First Noel**. At that point all participants will return to their seats. Please return the costumes to the table as you are leaving church. Thank you for being a part of this most important Christian story!*

Narrator: The nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel writings of Luke and Matthew.

Narrator: Now the birth of Jesus took place in this way: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to their own towns to be registered.

O Little Town of Bethlehem – Mary and Joseph take the stage

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight*

Narrator: Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 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 swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Away in A Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

Narrator: And in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Angels from the Realms of Glory - shepherds & sheep come forward

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light;
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

Narrator: And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Enter the Angel Gabriel

Narrator: And the angel said to them,

Gabriel: Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people! To you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!

Narrator: 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, goodwill toward men!”

Angels we have Heard on High- Angels come forward

*Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis deo
Gloria, in excelsis deo*

Narrator: When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

What Child is This?- Angels and shepherds sit on steps

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

Narrator: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.”