**Christmas Pageant Video**

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St. John’s Episcopal Church, Wake Forest, NC

December 2020

**Instructions for Recording Hymns**

Dear **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  ,

Thank you for volunteering to record **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** for our 2020 Christmas pageant! Here are a few details:

* Memorizing: You do not have to memorize the hymn, feel free to record with a hymnal or the lyrics handy.
* What to Record: Mostly likely, I’ll only use the refrain from this hymn in the video, but I would love for you to record the entire hymn. I’ll have multiple refrains to pick and I would love to share this hymn in other ways with our community during the Christmas season.
* Recording: You can record this hymn on any smartphone. You can record a video or audio only. You can sing at a normal volume, just make sure the phone is close enough to pick up the sound well.
* Sending the Recording: You can email the recording to **­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** .If it is too big for an email, please upload it to Google Drive or Dropbox and send me a link. Please send me the recording by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** .

Your lyrics are below! Please let me know if you have any questions. Again, the deadline to submit this recording is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** .

Thank you for being part of St. John’s 2020 Christmas Pageant!

**Instructions for Recording Scenes**

Dear **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**,

Thank you for volunteering to record **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** scene for our 2020 Christmas pageant! Here are a few details:

* Memorizing: You do not have to memorize the lines, feel free to record the scene with a copy of the script.
* Recording: You can record this scene on any smartphone. Try to ensure the lighting is good in whatever space you use. Make sure to speak loudly. I can lower the volume when I edit, but I can only make it so loud if the recording is faint.
* Costumes: You can create your own costumes, or borrow costumes from the church. **Let me know if you’d like to borrow costumes** and we can arrange a time for costume pick up or drop off.
* Sending the Recording: You can email the recording to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. If it is too big for an email, please upload it to Google Drive or Dropbox and send me a link. Please send me the recording by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Your script is below! Please let me know if you have any questions. Again, the deadline to submit this recording is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Thank you for being part of St. John’s 2020 Christmas Pageant!

**Script & Hymns: 2020 Christmas Pageant Video**

**Title Slide: *O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**Household #1 Introduction (1 Actor)**

Cast: Narrator

**Narrator 1:**

Friends, it is finally time to draw close to the Mystery of Christmas. As we prepare to enter this great mystery, we are all on our way to Bethlehem. Let’s go with the prophets, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the animals, the angels, the Magi, and all the rest. They will show us the way on this journey that was not just back then, but is also now.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Transition: *fade***

**Household #2: Prophecy of the Coming of Christ the King (2+ Actors)**

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Cast: Narrator, The Prophet Isaiah

Optional additions: People listening to The Prophet Isaiah

**Narrator 2:**

Long before the birth of Jesus, prophets foretold of a wonderful event – the coming of a Prince of Peace, who would be the Son of God and would bring hope to all the world.

**Isaiah:**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light…

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

**Narrator 2:**

Many years passed before the words of the prophets were fulfilled.

**Transition: *The Angel Gabriel to Mary Came***

**Household #3: The Annunciation to Mary (3 Actors)**

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Cast: Narrator, Angel Gabriel, Mary

**Narrator 3:**

Then to a simple maiden in the town of Nazareth came the greatest honor and glory yet bestowed upon a woman. In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

**Angel Gabriel:**

“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

**Narrator 3:**

She was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

**Angel Gabriel:**

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

**Mary:**

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

**Narrator 3:**

The angel departed from her.

**Transition: *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**Household #4: The Birth of Christ in Bethlehem (3+ Actors)**

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Cast: Narrator, Joseph, Mary

Optional additions: Donkey, innkeeper, infant Jesus, animals

**Narrator 4:**

The first Christmas, over 2,000 years ago, was a seemingly unimportant event -the birth of a child in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to their own towns to be enrolled. And 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.

There was no place for them in the inn in Bethlehem. And so it was that she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.

**Transition: *Angels We Have Heard on High***

**Household #5: The Worship of the Shepherds (3+ Actors)**

Scripture: Luke 2:9-16

Cast: Narrator, Angel, Shepherd

Optional additions: more angels, more shepherds, sheep

**Narrator 5:**

Among the few who first heard of the birth of the Christ-Child were some humble shepherds in the hills near Bethlehem.

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:**

“Do not be afraid, for behold – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

**Narrator 5:**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

**Angel:**

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

**Narrator 5:**

When the angels left, the shepherds said to one another,

**Shepherd:** “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

**Narrator 5:**

So they left quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Transition: *We Three Kings***

**Household #6: The Worship of the Magi (3+ Actors)**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Cast: Narrator, Magi, King Herod

Optional additions: more Magi, the wild star

**Narrator 6:**

Poor shepherds were not the only worshippers at the cradle in Bethlehem. Strange visitors also came, bearing fine gifts.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

**Magi:**

“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 6:**

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

**King Herod:**

“Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

**Narrator 6:**

The kings set out with the star ahead of them.

Finally the star stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. They knelt before the Holy Family and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh….The kings were then warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Transition: *fade***

**Household #7: Conclusion**

Cast: Narrator

**Narrator 7:**

When the shepherds, the magi, and everyone who came to greet the little King returned to their homes, they joined with the angels in glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. As we celebrate Christmas this year, may we, too, go on our way, with praise and wonder in our hearts, giving glory to God for the gift of love given to us in Christ. Amen.

**Closing Slide: *Joy to the World***

1. Language adapted from Godly Play story of Advent found in [The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Volume 3, Revised and Expanded](https://www.churchpublishing.org/completeguidetogodlyplay3) by Jerome W. Berryman, with Cheryl V. Minor and Rosemary Beales. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)