



A Christmas Pageant © 2004

By The Rev. Gawain F. de Leeuw

Written for the children (and their parents)
of the Sunday School of St. Bartholomew's Church
White Plains, NY

Characters:

Narrator 1 _____

Narrator 2 _____

Angel 1 _____

Angel 2 _____

Angel 3 _____

Mary _____

Joseph _____

Shepherd 1 _____

Shepherd 2 _____

Shepherd 3 _____

Shepherd 4 _____

Herod _____

King 1 _____

King 2 _____

King 3 _____

Special Assistance to the Kings provided by _____

Sign Holders

And, of course, the parents of the children of _____
Sunday School who make all things possible.

Costuming Coordinator: _____

Photographer: _____

THIS PAGE IS FOR NOTES, COMMENTS, DIRECTION

Prologue

Narrator 1: In the beginning was the Word,

Narrator 2: An account of the genealogy* of Jesus the Messiah,* the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...

Narrator 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.

Sign Carrier¹ comes out with big sign saying "The Word" That sign is replaced during the pageant by other signs saying "Logos", "Mind", "Logic", "Discussion"

Narrator 2: ... and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Narrator 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

Narrator 2: ... and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father

Narrator 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Narrator 2: ... of Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah,* fourteen generations.

Narrator 1: The light of all people. All people.

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City P. 102, vs. 1 (
2, 4, 6

Sign saying “Mary Makes a Remarkable Discovery”

Scene 1: Mary finds out from Gabriel she’s pregnant

Mary: Who’s There? An Angel?

Angel: Buffy?

Mary: No, it’s Mary

Angel: Hello Mary! You are blessed, chosen and praised by God!
God is with you.

Mary: [very surprised] “What? How, who, what are you? I’m poor and about to be married to a guy I just met. And I’m about to have a child. I don’t understand, Mr. Angel, and .”

Angel: You can call me Gabriel. Do not be afraid, Mary, your son will be the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will change misery into exuberance, and transform despair into hope. His joy will be contagious, overcoming a fear of death, with a love of life.

Mary: But, how is this possible?

The Angel: The Holy spirit will sanctify you, by your love. For nothing is impossible with God.

Mary: Here am I. I’m his servant. I’ll trust you. I love God. God keeps his promises.

Angel: Of course he does. All things are possible.

Sign: Joseph learns "All things are possible"

Scene 2: Mary tells Joseph. Joseph has a crisis.

Mary: Joseph, I'm carrying a child.

Joseph, surprised: What? How?

Mary: The Holy Spirit. Don't be angry: this child is special, and will bring wonder into the world.

God chose me, a young, poor, playful, mischievous girl. He didn't choose a queen, but me, a young maiden. He's shown how the proud don't have a heart; the powerful will lose their power; yet, the hungry will be fed, and his people will be saved, the people of goodness. He fulfills his promises. He promised Abraham.

Joseph: Mary, I think, you're crazy. Look, I'll help you but I can't be your husband. [Mary looks sad].

The Angel; Joseph bar David, what she tells you is true. Keep her. You will be a good father. You will raise him in the traditions of his forefathers, to do justice, to love mercy and walk humbly. Your son will thirst for righteousness. He will save people, from themselves, from their mistakes, from their callousness, and their despair. He will give people hope, and save them from their sins. He will ransom captive Israel.

Joseph: [to the audience] How might this young boy save us from our sins? Or from Augustus? *He considers.*

Joseph: [To Mary] I promise you everything, and that I will raise this child as my own. God is with us.

Mary: God is with us.

Hymn: O Come Emmanuel, v. 1, p. 56

Scene 3: Mary, Joseph, and a crowd gather. A man gathers on a soap box, takes a few breaths. He tries to get people's attention.

Signer comes out, saying: "Registration"

Announcer: "A decree by the Emperor. If you do not listen, you will be shot, crucified, tortured, or whatever we feel like doing to you. So pay attention.

You must be registered.

To register, please bring your passport, proof of current residence, a driver's license, a social security number, your most recent phone and electric bill, all notarized by a notary properly known by the state. Upon registration the state will be better able to collect taxes, and notify you of any crimes you might unknowingly have committed. You must do this in the township of your birth, so that we might know your whereabouts and protect you from Zealots and Terrorists.

Your loving master, King, and God, Emperor Augustus, via Quirinius."

Mary: Why can't we just be in Nazareth?

Joseph: We're going to Bethlehem. That's where I grew up.

Mary: Um, I'm almost due.

Scene 4: They travel. They knock on several doors, but there are no places open. One innkeeper has a barn that he offers.

Sign: No room and a Baby

Innkeeper: It's not much, but there's plenty of hay. I just cleaned it this morning, fortunately, and the animals are all fed and sleepy. I'll bring breakfast in the morning.

Hymn: (Mary Had A Baby) or What Child is This? V. 1, P.

115

Scene 1: Three kings, angels and shepherds enter on different sides

Loud Sounds and blinding light appears. Shepherds are scared.

Angel: 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And

Then, a group of Angels appears, singing ***Gloria from Gloria*** (chorus, p. 96)

Shepherd one: After that light show, I think we might want to go to Bethlehem.

Shepherd two: I'm curious.

Shepherd three: Someone to save us? A child?

Shepherd one: Someone to save us? Wonderful. That's good news!

They leave in haste:

The Kings see a star and gather together.

King 1: thank you for your message. I too saw that star, from afar. What do you think it means?

King 2: Freedom and liberation from the hands of the tyrant

King 3: A spiritual awakening among the peoples of all the world

King 1: Yes. Let us go where that star leads us.

Shepherds sing to Mary Angels we have heard on High[v. 1], P. 96

Scene II *Kings meet with Herod*

King 1: We noticed, in your kingdom, there is a star that tells great things: that a king has been born. A king that will liberate the peoples from the tyranny of spiritual and political oppression brought by the pagan Romans.

Herod [skeptical, worried, and unsure]: Really? Where will he be born? *To Parishioners* and what can I do to stop it?

The Three Kings: Your scribes suspect Bethlehem.

Herod: That back-water village? Just a bunch of hicks and fundamentalists.

King 1: Maybe so. But the stars are never wrong.

Herod: 'Go and find him. When you do, tell me, so I can go also'

Kings sing v1 of We Three Kings, P. 128

Scene III The Kings honor Jesus

The kings find the inn. They kneel, jostling for spaces with the Shepherds.

King 1: "Here is gold – and investment for his education and your future."

King 2: "Here is Frankincense, to pray for God's blessing"

King 3: "Here is myrrh, for the young boy's health."

Mary, Thank you. I'm so honored. I don't have a place for you to sit."

Joseph: I wish we had a place for you to stay.

Three Kings: This is enough for us.

King 1: We are happy.

King 2: We are happy that our planet will survive the Roman empire.

King 3: We're happy that goodness will overcome evil.

King 1: Should we go back to Herod and tell him?

King 2: I don't trust that rascal. He didn't look happy when we told him.

King 3: He's too concerned about his own power. He might kill the child.

All Kings: Let's go back another way.

All sing –We Three Kings, V. 5, P. 128

Scene IV. Joseph and Mary decide to leave town

Joseph: We must leave, Mary. We'll gather everything. I'll get the horses and my tools ready. Gather the child.

Mary: But I'm so tired. He's sleeping.

Joseph: Better that he is sleeping now. Now! Let's go.

Mary: Where?

Joseph: Egypt.

Mary: How long?

Joseph: Until Herod dies. We'll outlast Herod. God is with us.

Mary: Yes, God is with us.

All together: ***Go Tell it on the Mountain, P. 99, all verses and
We Wish You a Merry Christmas (Xerox, 3 verses)***