

Christmas Pageant 2009

Angel Scene One

A: I don't think I can do this.

B: Come on, you got the easy job.

A: I don't think so. I get to tell a teenage girl that, she's pregnant, but it's OK because...

B: Because it's God's child.

A: But she doesn't exactly have any way to prove it. I mean, reputation is so important to teenagers.

B: Well Joseph's opinion is the one who matters most, and I have to take care of him. I mean, how am I supposed to break the news. Hey Joe, you're fiancée's knocked up, but it's OK because...

A: Well I hope you have more tact than that!

B: Obviously, but it all comes down to the same thing.

A: I'm just worried the poor thing will panic as soon as she sees me. I don't know how she will react to the news.

B: So when are you going to tell her.

A: I haven't decided yet. What about you.

B: I tell him in a dream.

A: That's risky, I mean, you want him to know you're real and not just wishful thinking on his part.

B: I don't think it matters. If he talks to Mary and she tells him the same things that I did--

A: Oh, so it all comes down to me, does it.

B: Just listen. I'll tell him the name, and you tell her. We both tell them to name him Jesus, then he'll have to believe, right? It would be too much of a coincidence any other

way.

A: Don't you think he'll want something more concrete than a dream?

B: I like to communicate through dreams. He's a faithful person, I don't think it will be a problem.

A: Well it's your decision. (Pause) I think I'll send her to her cousin Elizabeth. It should be comforting for her to be around another woman with a miraculous pregnancy.

B: Good idea.

A: But when it comes down to it, what words do I use. I still don't know what to say.

B: Tell her not to be afraid for starters. Then tell her that she is blessed, and she has been chosen to be the mother of God's child.

A: That's all?

B: That's all.

A: Well say it again. I want to get this down.

(Both exit)

Angel Scene Two

C: Be Afraid! (checks script) Ummm, Be NOT afraid. For I am bringing you... I am bringing you GREAT tidings of GOOD joy for all people.

D: That's GOOD tidings of GREAT joy.

C: Oh, right. Good tidings of great joy, good tidings of great joy.

D: For to you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, 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.

C: That was great! You say your lines with so much flair!

D: I don't even know why I bother.

C: What do you mean?

D: Shepherds! A talent like mine, and I'm being sent to tell a couple of shepherds.

C: What do you have against shepherds?

D: AND I'm not even being trusted to do it solo. Do I really need the entire heavenly host to back me up? Really, I think I could have tacked "Gloria in excelsis deo" onto the end of the message.

C: Oh, but the choir has been practising so hard.

D: For Shepherds! Why is the entire heavenly host practising for a bunch a shepherds? I mean, why are they even invited? What is Mary going to think when a bunch of smelly shepherds burst into the stable. Are these the kind of people she wants around her baby?

C: What's so wrong with shepherds in a stable?

D: That's the point! I kind of disagree with this entire concept. The son of God born in a barn!

C: And would a palace be good enough?

D: Well, no.

C: You really don't get it, do you. The shepherds are invited because God thinks they're important. Isn't that enough?

D: I guess.

C: These people understand poverty. If God meets them in poverty, maybe God will be easier for them to understand.

D: But first, they need to be convinced to leave their fields.

C: And that's where the show comes in.

D: (Sigh) Right, then. One more time:

C: Be NOT afraid for I bring ... (Both Exit)

Participatory Pageant

Narrator: For this part of the pageant, we need your participation. The angels will find our cast from among the congregation. You won't be required to speak or sing, you just need to be willing to be present in the role you are being asked to fill. If you aren't comfortable with this, then simply shake your head and the angel will move on to someone else.

We begin in Galilee, with an angel named Gabriel and a young woman named Mary.

Angel A: *(Finds a woman with a small child and offers her Mary costume during the narration)*

Greetings favoured one, the Lord is with you.

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, 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 rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

The Holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child born to be born will be holy; for nothing is impossible with God

(Mary enters tableau)

Narration: We'll stay in Galilee, and find a man named Joseph, a man who was engaged to Mary, but has decided to put her aside after discovering that she was pregnant.

Angel B: *(Finds Joseph and offers him costume and donkey during narration)*

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child conceived in her is of the holy spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins

Narration: Joseph went to Bethlehem 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 bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for THEM in the inn.

(Joseph enters tableau)

Narration: For the next part of our story we need some people willing to be shepherds. If you are willing to come be a shepherd, please come and join our angels **AS WE SING Verses 1 and 2 of Angels From the Realms of Glory**

(Angels distribute costumes and sheep to volunteers)

Near Bethlehem, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Angel C: Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.

Angel D: To you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, 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.

- **Choir Sings: Gloria (ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH REFRAIN VU 38)**

(Shepherds enter tableau during hymn)

Narration: (To a Child) For the next part of our pageant, will you hold this star. I want you to walk with me around the church and see if you can find any wise men (or women) who will follow your star.

(To congregation) We need some wise men or wise women to join in the next part of our pageant. If you are willing, then follow the star **WHILE WE SING The First Noel**

(Angels distribute costumes and camel to wise men)

Narration: Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking “where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” Herod secretly called for the wise men to learn from them the exact time the star had appeared.

Herod: (Does not see the star or narrator, who make warning gestures)

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

Narration: Don't worry, they will be warned in a dream not to return to Herod. For now, ahead of them, goes the star they had seen at its rising, and it stops over the place where

the child is. When they see that the star has stopped, they are overwhelmed with JOY!

(Wise men and angels enter tableau)

Narration: Here is our beautiful, familiar Christmas story. Thank you to everybody who participated, especially those who had no idea that they were going to be part of the pageant this year. To help us keep this joy in our hearts, the choir will sing a song of joy as our participants return to their seats.

ANTHEM...

(All exit, angels coordinate costumes and props. Angels remain in costume to help with white gifts)

Narration: We hear the story with joy, and often respond with generosity. On white gift Sunday, we remind ourselves that Jesus was born into and lived out his life in poverty, and we bring gifts for those who are struggling to meet their basic needs. These gifts are for strangers, but they are also gifts for Jesus.

We need some helpers to bring these gifts to the front of the church **WHILE WE SING HYMN 117 (JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING).**

Blessing over White Gifts

Cans collected by angels; banquets freely given. Gifts of none perishables; a gift of generosity and love to another. May these nurture our neighbour and your generous spirit light the fire of joy in the hearts of all who give and all who receive.