**Christopher’s 2024**

**Epiphany Pageant**

Hymn Number 56, O Come, O come Emmanuel, Verse 1.

During the song: Mary emerges—doing a household task, like folding a blanket.

**Scene 1 – The Annunciation**

Narrator *The birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mary lived in the village of Nazareth, in the Northern province of Galilee. Mary was engaged to be married to a humble carpenter, named Joseph. One night, God sent the archangel Gabriel to Mary.*

Gabriel. **Hail Mary! The Lord is with you, blessed are you among women.**

Mary: **Aaaagh!!! Who are you?**

Gabriel. **Do not be afraid Mary – God is happy with you! You are going to have a baby and you will call him Jesus. This baby will become a great man and people will call him the Son of God.**

Mary. **How shall this be? I am confused, but I am God’s Servant, I shall do as he has asked. I will be the mother of this special child. Let it be as you have said.**

**Scene 2 – Arrival in Bethlehem**

Narrator In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that all of the world should be counted. Joseph and Mary, who was with child, left Nazareth to return to the small village of Joseph’s family, Bethlehem, because he was from the lineage of David. *And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be delivered.*

Joseph **Our journey is ended, we are in David’s City, take heart Mary, here is an Inn, I will seek lodging for us.**

Mary. **Thanks be to God, I can barely take another step.**

INN KEEPER #1 **Who’s there? What can you pay? I’m sorry, I have no rooms for such as you. Try over the way, maybe they can take you in.**

Joseph. **Mary, come this way.**

INN KEEPER #2 **My Inn’s full up! I have no room in the house, but you may stay with my animals in my stable out back. It’s not much, but it’s the best I can do for you. Follow me….**

Joseph **Thank you, you are very kind. This is all we need.**

Maybe one verse of a hymn: Away in a Manger or O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Scene 3 – The Shepherds & Angels**

Narrator *Now in the region, in the fields near Bethlehem there were shepherds, keeping watch over their flock by night. In the cold night sky, suddenly, a brilliant light shone through the darkness and an Angel appeared.*

**All Shepherds: Look! What’s that? Heaven help us!**

Gabriel. **BEHOLD, I bring you good news of great joy! Do not fear, for today The Lord’s chosen one, the savior of the world, was born today in Bethlehem. This will be a sign to man. You will find him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.**

Narrator. *Then suddenly a whole host – a multitude – of heavenly angels appearing in the sky, they sang out the news of the baby Jesus. The Shepherds hurried to the town where they soon found Mary, Joseph and the baby in the stable. Excitedly they went away praising God.*

Shepherd #1 **The Messiah is born, The Messiah is born! We must go at once to see the child!**

Shepherd #2 **He shall bring Peace on earth and good will to all men!**

Shepherd #3 **Glory to the new born King! Let’s go to Bethlehem and find him, RIGHT NOW !**

Maybe 1 verse of Hark the Herald Angels Sing or Angels We Have Heard on High

**Scene 4 – The Three Kings / Magi**

Narrator *News of the birth of Jesus spread far and wide. A group of wisemen saw the star in the East and followed it, traveling first to Jerusalem then to Bethlehem~~, when they found the infant laying in a manager, they fell down and worshipped him, asking…~~ When they arrived, they rejoiced and they asked…*

KING #1 **“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed the star shining brightly over his birth and have come to pay him homage. I have brought him the gift of GOLD, as he is the King of Man.”**

We Three Kings v. 2

KING #2 **“We have traveled from the East, the North and the South, from the lands of Arabia, Babylonia and Persia. I bring him Frankincense, a perfume burned in honor of Jesus as God.”**

We Three Kings v. 3

KING #3 **“We are Gentiles, people who will worship Jesus as the son of God. I bring him, Myrrh, scented gum to prepare the human body for burial, as he is also a man and will someday die for all of us”.**

We Three Kings v. 4

All Kings: **Behold, the Son of God, the Messiah!**

We Three Kings v. 5 and chorus

Narrator *And Mary, his mother kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

***Go tell it on the Mountain song***