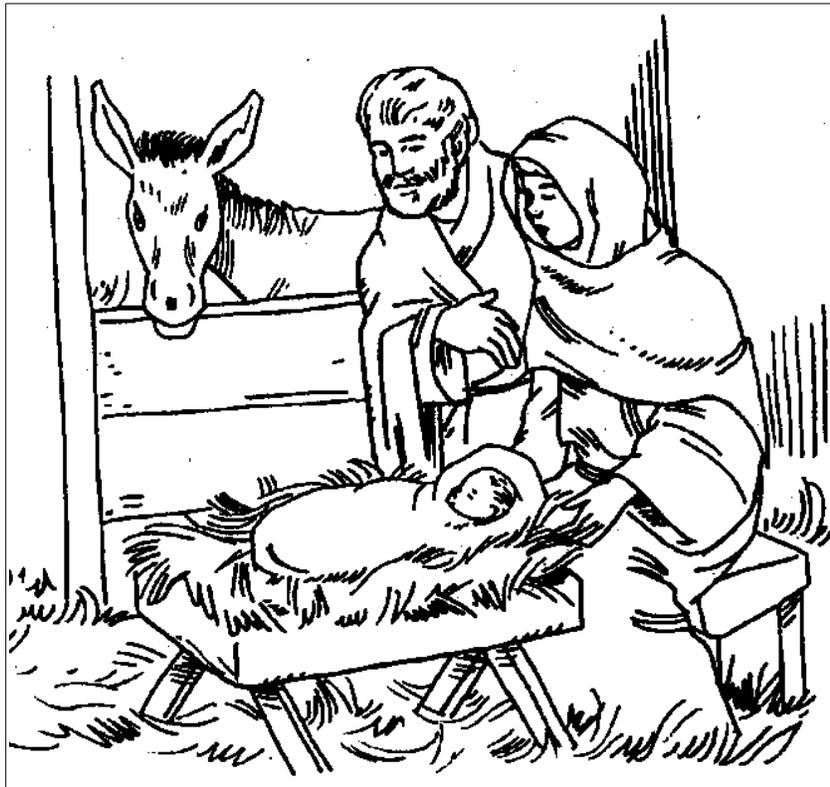


Children's Christmas Program “Journey to the Christ Child”

Date: December 15, 2019

Location: St. John’s Lutheran Church, Austin, MN



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Children's Christmas Program

“Journey to the Christ Child”

PRELUDE MUSIC

OPENING: Welcome and Prayer

OPENING SONG: O Come Little Children (Congregation)

- 1 O come, little children, O come, one and all,
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall
And see what the Father in heaven so true
Has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.
- 2 Behold, in the manger, that strange little bed,
A Child, sweet and gentle, is resting His head,
A Babe, clad in garments so pure and so white,
And fairer by far than the angels of light.
- 3 On hay and on straw in the manger He lies;
Both Mary and Joseph, with fond, loving eyes,
Are gazing upon Him, and shepherds draw near,
And jubilant angels from heaven appear.
- 4 O kneel with the shepherds in worshipful prayer
And join the dear angels who also are there;
Sing glory to God in the heavens above
And thank Him for Jesus, the gift of His love.

Narrator (Pastor James) In coming here to worship, we are not the only Christmas travelers. Through the centuries many journeys have focused on the Christ child. In fact, all of those journeys were made necessary by an earlier journey—the journey of Adam and Eve from Eden.

Narrator (Pastor James) Long ago, the first people on earth, Adam and Eve, were cast out of the Garden of Eden because of their sin of turning away from God and disobeying Him, but God did not leave them without hope. He promised that one day one of their descendants would challenge Satan and defeat him. As the years passed, this promise was repeated and prophecies were given so that when He arrived those faithful to God would recognize Him. And even as God's followers awaited the coming of this Son of God, so too the angels in Heaven watched and waited.

Narrator (Pastor James) God's plan to send his people a Savior was about to become a reality. He sent the angel Gabriel on a journey to the town of Nazareth to give a very important message to a very special woman named Mary.

Gabriel (Jonathan) Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Emmanuel which means, God with us.

Mary (Sydney) Behold, I am a handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

Congregation Song: LSB 376—Once in Royals David City (congregation)

[1] Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

[2] He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

[3] For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

[4] And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and helpless,
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

[5] Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, his praise will sound.

Narrator (Pastor James) At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a hill country of Judea, where she entered Zachariah's home and greeted his wife Elizabeth. Mary had just been visited by the angel Gabriel and been told she will bear a son, Jesus, who will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and heir to the throne of David. How would she even be able to tell anyone of this news? And who would believe her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and in a loud voice she proclaimed.

Elizabeth (Heather) Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear. But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me. As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ear, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.

Solo (Haylie) Do You Hear What I Hear

Narrator (Pastor James) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Joseph (Kayveon) Mary, I'm so sorry your stuck in this manger. You deserve better.

Mary (Sydney) It's okay Joseph. What matters is that you are here with me. It is our honor that the Messiah is coming to us no matter where we are. I can't believe this is the Promised One.

Children's Bell Choir: O Come all Ye Faithful

Angel 1 (Elizabeth) Hark! The angels bright are singing,
Through the skies their voices ringing

Angel 2 (Lainy) Lies the little baby, heaven's royal gem
Down in little Bethlehem

Angel 3 (Natalie) Tell the good news, tribute bring
To the new born Savior King!

Angel 4 (Kyla) He shall reign from shore to shore
Whom the shining hosts adore

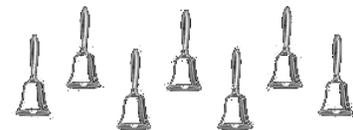
Angel 5 (Ezrya) Holy night shine out again
Bringing peace, goodwill to men.

Angel 6 (Makki) Not among the kings had birth
Christ, the Lord of all the earth

Angel 7 (Beki) *[American Sign Language]*



Children's Bell Choir: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come



Narrator (Pastor James) After Jesus was born, angels, too, made the journey from heaven to earth. They came to tell the shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And the angels of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them.

An Angel (Zoe) Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people. for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

An Angel (Dori) And this will be a sign for you. You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

An Angel (Faith) Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to men.

Congregation Song: LSB 368 -Angels We Have Heard On High

[1] Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain

[3] Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain

[2] Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain

[Refrain] Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherd (Max) Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.

Shepherd (Asher) Yes, let us see this thing which the Lord has made known to us.

Shepherd (Quentin) What do we have to give this King. We are just poor shepherds.
I know, like the angels, we can give him praise.

Narrator (Pastor James) The shepherds, living in the same country as Jesus, had a shorter trip to make than the Wise Men who lived in the East. The Wise Men journeyed many miles to see Jesus.

Pastor Please stand and join me as we, trusting in our Lord and His promises, are bold to pray:

Congregation: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Music Piano Solo: The Friendly Beasts

Message: Why Do We Do This?

Narrator (Pastor James) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and came to King Herod saying.

Wise Man (James) Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?

Wise Man (William) We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.

Wise Man (Dagito) The amazing star, the sign that the Savior has come, the ones the prophets wrote about so long ago.

Flute solo (Zoe): Away in the Manger

Narrator (Pastor James) When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him; And assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Narrator (Pastor James) They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; it is written by the prophet Micah: And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah; from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.” Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and asked them what time the star appeared, and sent them to Bethlehem saying.

King Herod (Eve) Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.

Narrator (Pastor James) When they heard the king they went their way and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the young child was.

Narrator (Pastor James) Gold carries obvious significance. It’s precious and worthy across all cultures and times. It’s a gift fit for royalty. It says to the Christ child, You will be a King. Frankincense is a gift for a priest and Myrrh is a used for special funerals, because the wise men knew that Jesus our High Priest and King, came to die for the sins of all people.

Narrator (Pastor James) And what about our journey to the Christ Child: The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; And the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Congregation Song: “We Three Kings”

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star. | 3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.
<i>(Refrain)</i> |
|---|---|

Refrain:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.</i> | 4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
<i>(Refrain)</i> |
| 2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
<i>(Refrain)</i> | 5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
<i>(Refrain)</i> |

Narrator (Pastor James) Although the Wise Men’s trip is the traditional end to the Christmas story. It is not the end of the journey for us. When Jesus was 40 days old Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple in Jerusalem for another ceremony. Many, many years before Jesus came to earth as a baby, God had given Moses laws for His people to obey. One of those laws was that any family who had a firstborn son had to take that son and have him dedicated at the temple.

Narrator (Pastor James) Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. When he saw the child, he took him in his arms and said.

Simeon (Jonathan) Lord now let your servant depart in peace according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen the salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

Narrator (Pastor James) Anna, a prophet, was also there. She was now very old. She never left the temple courtyard but worshiped day and night by fasting and praying. At that moment she came up to Mary and Joseph and began to thank God saying:

Anna (Elaine) Praise to God! This is Jesus!! He will save His people. He will save us all.
This is Jesus! The Son of God! He will save the world and wash away all sins. This
is Jesus!!

Children's Song: Go Tell It on the Mountain

Narrator (Pastor James) Up to this point in time the message was the Messiah would come to
Israel. Now that Messiah had come, with Him comes a new message. The Messiah
has not come for Israel alone. For those He truly is the "glory of His people Israel"
He is also "a light to lighten the Gentiles." Messiah has come and His name is Jesus.
Jesus has come for all people. He has come for you and for me; for everyone.
Simeon was the first person to explain that.

Narrator (Pastor James) That is what Christmas is really all about. It is about God bringing
salvation to all of us. Israel had always been God's chosen people. They were the
ones He would never abandon. They were the ones He would never let go. But now,
now something different is happening.

Now we are all God's chosen people. Jews and Gentiles alike. Jesus, the Babe of
Bethlehem, has come to save us all, in the calm still silence of the night. A silence
broken only by the lowing of cattle and the rustling and shuffling of shepherd's feet.

Congregation Song: LSB 363 – Silent Night, Holy Night (congregation)

[1] Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

[2] Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

[3] Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Dismissal



Did you know...
A Brief History of the Advent/Christmas Season

Advent is the first season of the church year. It begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, known as the Festival Day of Saint Andrew. There are four Wednesdays in the Advent Season. Each one has a name, but there are three major traditions for those names. They are:

Blue	Hope	Prophecy	Hope
Blue	Humility	Bethlehem	Peace
Pink	Joy	Shepherds	Love
Blue	Peace	Angel	Joy

Often a fifth white candle is added signifying Jesus. It is lit on Christmas Day.

The word Advent means revelation, or arrival, and is a time of eager anticipation of the coming Messiah. As much as children eagerly anticipate opening those gifts on Christmas, so does the Church await the arrival of Jesus, with excitement.

Why December 25?

Christmas means Christ's Mass, or Christ's Celebration. A time of celebration at the arrival of the Christ Child. Jesus was however probably not born on December 25. In fact most modern research points to a much more likely date in the middle of April. Why then do we have this celebration of Christmas in December and not April. The practice of exchanging gifts is the key. We give gifts at this time because it was very probably on December 25 that the Wise Men arrived about 20 months after His birth with their gifts for the Christ child.

If you carefully read the Biblical account of Jesus' birth, and the arrival of the Wise Men, you will see that they did not go to the manger but rather found the new family in a house where they were living.

Why are they called Wise Men?

The Wise Men were probably of Jewish decent but of those Jews who never returned Jerusalem after they were freed from Babylonian slavery. Many Jews stayed in Babylon. Babylon is the area of the world we now call Iraq. They had the Old Testament scriptures and Book of the Law and had studied and read to prophecies of the One who would come. They were waiting for the signs that would indicate the fulfillment of the prophecies.

The three gifts were: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Gold was the gift given to a King. The Wise Men knew Jesus was the King of kings.

Frankincense was the incense burned at the installation of a new priest. The Wise Men knew Jesus was our Priest, or Mediator, between us and the Father.

Myrrh was the incense burned at a funeral of royalty or priests. A funeral gift to a new baby may seem strange but the Wise Men knew Jesus would die for the world.

The Wise Men had read the prophecies of the Old Testament and they knew who the Christ Child was, and why He was here. Truly Wise Men indeed.