

# Unto to you is born this day...

**Date:** December 13, 2020

**Location:** St. John's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN



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## Actors:

**Narrators:** BlakeVanPelt, Katie VanPelt

**Mary:** Abbie VanPelt

**Joseph:** Aiden Grant

**Mary's Father:** Blake VanPelt

**Gabriel:** Haylie Meyer

**God:** Ryan VanPelt

**Angels:** All

**Angel:** Faith Kalliokoski

**Zen – Inn owner:** Ryan VanPelt

**Suzie – his wife:** Zoe Kewatt

**Man – Just a stranger:** Aiden Grant

**Shepherd-1:** Dori Olana

**Shepherd-2:** Sydney Rupe

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Written by Pastor James Groleau

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Introduction, Opening Prayer and Closing Prayer:

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## Opening Hymn Solo: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Haylie Meyer

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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## Invocation

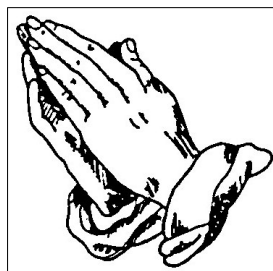
- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Introduction

- P** When the eternal God decided to enter human history in the person of His Son, He revealed His plans to turn the world's ways upside down. The Son of royal David, the One who fulfilled the promises to Adam, to Abraham, and us, the One who welcomes the lowly and the sinners into His family, the One who remembers common people but forgets their sins, is born as the Son of Mary, laid in a manger, a borrowed feeding trough. Come and adore Him. The Christ Child was born for you!

## Opening Prayer

- P** Let us pray:  
Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Grant us grace to put aside all earthly cares so that we may celebrate His coming among us with holy joy. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.



# Unto to you is born this day...

## Scene I – Mary and Joseph

*(Cast: Mary, Mary's Father, Joseph, Gabriel)*

Narrator: We don't really know much about Joseph. We know that he was born and raised in Bethlehem. We also know that he was a descendant of King David. A very distant relative, and had no inheritance to the throne or any of the royal wealth. We know that because we know he was very poor. We also know that he was a carpenter. There's not much else, but if we look at the culture of his time, and make some educated guesses, and a little imagination, we might be able to catch a glimpse of what he might have been like.

Joseph was a humble man. He was not the sort to be bold or to enjoy the center of attention. He was a good kid in school, getting good, average, grades. He respected his father, and learned the family business from him. He was a nice guy, but never really stood out in the crowd. Well except for that one time, when he was in high school, and he saw some boys picking on a little girl, named Mary. He mustered some courage that time and chased off the hoodlums. That was the day he first met her.

That was years ago. Mary had since grown up to be a very lovely young girl. Her father always thought highly of Joseph, and when the time came to arrange a groom for Mary, her father went to Joseph's father first. Though secretly, it was always supposed to be a secret.

The fathers agreed, and the announcement was made in the market place. In one year Joseph would be wed to young Mary. Neither family had any money, but it was a good match, and both Mary and Joseph were happy.

Life was going along quite well for Joseph. An average man, living an average life. He, like so many other men of his time, lived, worked, and died, and no one ever took notice of them. They appeared, and then disappeared, into the annals of time. Joseph always assumed his life would be no different than thousands of others. Little did he know that was all about to change.

This humble man was about to be put on display for all the world to see.

...but we're getting ahead of ourselves.

The engagement had been made, and Joseph had to start working a little harder to save up his money. Caring for his wife would be more responsibility. There would be no more bowling nights at the local inn, with the guys. He had to be responsible now, and save every cent. Life under Herod's taxes was hard enough as a single man. Now he would have to care for Mary as well.

An average man, living an average life. Ho hum, drum, drum, his life went on. Then it all started to unwind, like a kitten playing with a ball of string called “his life.”

He was so certain that Mary was a good girl. She was always so stable and supportive. She appeared so happy about the upcoming wedding. It just never ever crossed his mind that she would be carousing around at night with a rougher crowd.

Mary: “Mom, Dad, I have something I need to tell you...”

Narrator: She told her parents she was pregnant. They were shocked, and humiliated. What would they tell Joseph and his family? Bethlehem was such a small town. Everyone would know soon enough.

They had to do the honorable thing and tell Joseph’s family first, before the gossip vine got the word to them. But how? What words could they use after all the celebration over the engagement?

Mary: “Mom, Dad, it’s true. An angel spoke to me!”

Narrator: Mary tried to tell them some crazed story about an angel talking to her. She was so insistent that her father nearly blew a gasket.

Mary’s Father: “What has gotten into you that you would tell such lies? Is it not bad enough that you have brought shame on my house and put your own life in danger? Will you make it worse by blaspheming God as well?!”

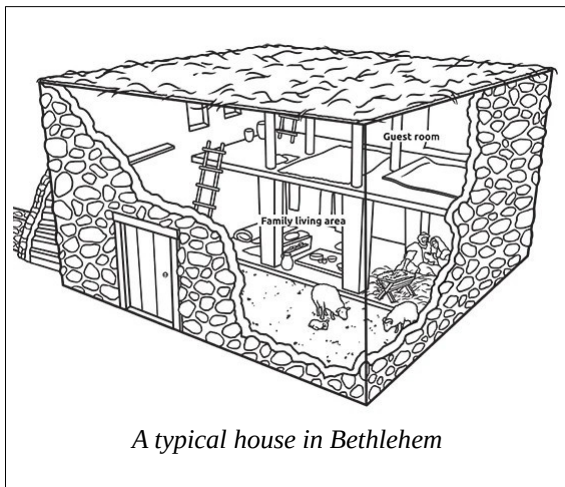
Narrator: Mary just stared at the floor crying. She had always been a good, obedient, and very honest girl. She was certain her parents would believe her. That’s why she went to them first.

(You see an angel really had spoken to her. She really was the one chosen to bear the Messiah. The baby she carried really was the Son of God.)

Narrator: The next morning, Mary’s father got up and waited on the front porch. Joseph always walked past their house, on the way to his shop, and since phones hadn’t been invented yet, it would be the best way to catch him before the rumor mill did.

The conversation was deeply embarrassing to Mary’s father. Joseph barely spoke. He had no idea what to say. This was all too much for his average life. The conversation ended with Mary’s father simply saying,

Mary’s Father: “I’m sorry.”



*A typical house in Bethlehem*

Narrator: Without even thinking Joseph turned back up the street and walked home. His heart was broken. His spirit crushed.

Joseph: “How could I be such a bad judge of character? I really thought she was a godly woman.”

Narrator: He said, almost out loud, as he walked slowly home.

The next day he had to go back to Mary’s house. There were legal issues to handle. That and, no matter how much his heart was broken, he couldn’t accuse Mary of... well you know...

Joseph: “I just want to break off the engagement quietly, Maybe she can go off and visit some of your relatives for a while or something.”

Narrator: What could her parents say? They loved their daughter. This was all just too much.  
...but it had only just begun.

Joseph went right to bed after a long day’s work. He was exhausted physically from the work, and mentally from his mind reeling over the thoughts and the disappointment.

He would have slept right through the night, but he was awoken by a voice. You could almost call it a man’s voice, but it was different somehow. Clearer, stronger, a voice that almost seemed to sing every word. Then he realized he wasn’t dreaming, and he suddenly was wide awake.

Gabriel: “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

Narrator: The angel spoke and then left him there, in the dark again.

Joseph: “Oh what have I done?! Could this vision be true? It must be true! Oh what am I going to do? My parents and hers are never going to believe me when I tell them an angel spoke to me. This is all too much excitement.”

Narrator: He never did get back to sleep that night.  
In the morning he brought the two families together. He told them,

Joseph: “Last night an angel came to me. He told me I should not be concerned about Mary, because she is going to give birth to the Son of God.”

Narrator: At first both fathers looked at each other like they knew what was really going through Joseph’s young, impatient, mind, but as the conversation went on, everyone realized that Mary and Joseph never really had time to make up this story together.

Mary’s Father: Well perhaps... just maybe... could it really be...? I mean it’s just not possible. Do you mean to say that our little Mary...? Oh my! The Son of God?! Could our little Mary be so honored to be chosen...  
... to bear the Messiah?!

Narrator: It was Mary's father who spoke the first complete sentence.

Mary's Father: "We are both descendants of David, just like the prophecies tell us. The priests teach us these things every year. Oh my goodness, what in the world are we going to tell the priests?"

Narrator: The truth is, as quiet and average, peaceful and poor, as Joseph was, God had much greater plans for him. Joseph's life was going to become something far more than just average.

## Scene II – The Throne Room

*(Cast: God, Gabriel, Angels, Angel)*

Narrator: The time was coming near. All of Heaven was bustling with anticipation and excitement. Decoration and preparation for the celebration were happening everywhere.

Some of the angels had gotten a little over zealous in their decorating.

God: “Gabriel.”

Narrator: The Lord’s voice crashed through the foundations of the Heavens. The arch-angel Gabriel made his way into the throne room. His voice rumbled deeply.

Gabriel: “Yes, my Lord?”

Narrator: The Lord’s voice again shook the palace.

God: “What is this on My throne?”

Gabriel: “Tinsel my Lord.”

Narrator: Gabriel’s voice echoed through the great throne room.

God: “Why is there tinsel on My throne?”

Narrator: The Lord’s voice crushing the air as He spoke.

Gabriel: “I believe some of the angels have become a bit over zealous with the preparations my Lord.”

Narrator: Gabriel’s voice continued to roll through the floors of the palace.

Gabriel: “Angels!”

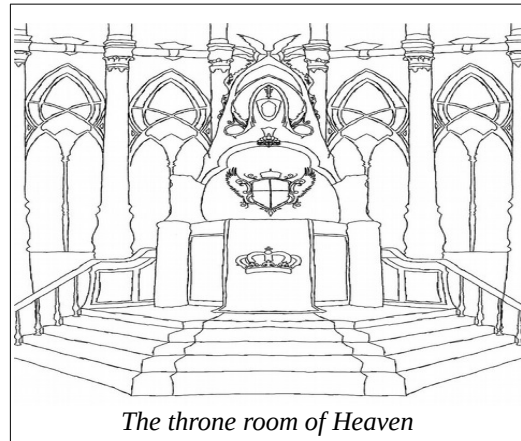
Narrator: He spoke, though not raising his voice. A General in the Lord’s army never had to raise his voice.  
(Trust me, you wouldn’t want to be there if he did.)

Gabriel: “Remove the decorations from the Lord’s throne.  
No one is to touch the throne. Is that understood?”

Angels: “Yes Gabriel.”

Narrator: ... a few Seraphim sang, and quickly went to the throne to remove the decorations.

(Which, by the way, really did clash with the emerald rainbow, and fountain flowing up from under the throne.)



*The throne room of Heaven*



Narrator: The decorations were removed, and Gabriel led them out of the throne room. The mighty doors closed behind him. The angels were all so excited, so filled with energy, and wanting to shout to the whole Earth, 'Your Savior is with you!'

Angels: "Is it time General Gabriel? Can we tell them now? It is time yet?!"

Narrator: His voice rolled again. As he began to speak, everyone fell silent. No one interrupted General Gabriel. No one knew what would happen if you did, and no one was going to test him to find out.

Gabriel: "No, it is not yet time. You will know when it is time, when I tell you it is time. Now the Lord God desires His peace, and He will not be disturbed. Is that clear?"

Narrator: There was no answer. There was no need for an answer. Gabriel's commands were always obeyed without question.

One little Seraphim, simply unable to contain his excitement said,

Angel: "It is time now?!"

Narrator: His voice was kind, excited, and sung like a golden bell as he spoke. Gabriel looked at him spoke sharply,

Gabriel: "I will tell you when it is time."

Angel: "When it is time, can I tell them?  
Can I tell the Lord's children? I want to tell them!"

Narrator: Then all of them started,

Angels: "I want to tell them too. I want to tell them."

Narrator: Gabriel spoke, and silence instantly fell, as his voice thundered,

Gabriel: "When it is time, I will choose who will tell them..."

Narrator: There was a quick, and a bit loud, inhalation of excitement that could be heard from some distance away. Gabriel's eyes glared at the multitude, and all of them held their breath.

(That was the closest any of them ever got to interrupting Gabriel. No one has ever come that close since.)

Gabriel: "That is all."

Narrator: Gabriel turned back into the throne room. The angels let out their breath, and continued the excited chatter and the preparations.

Gabriel: "My Lord, the angels have been instructed to avoid bothering You. They are very excited my Lord."

Narrator: The Lord's voice crashed through the throne room,

God: "I know Gabriel. They serve Me well. I am not angry. The time approaches. Have you selected who will go to tell My people of the birth of My Son?"

Gabriel: "I have my Lord.  
I have decided to send all of them, though I have not told them yet. They are  
excited enough, and I want it to be a surprise."

God: "All of them?"

Narrator: The Lord asked, with the tone of His voice suggesting the decision might not be  
the most wise.

Gabriel: "Your children deserve the very best my Lord. I am sending Cherubim to show  
Your might and strength, and Seraphim to sing Your praises my Lord."

God: "You have chosen well Gabriel."

Narrator: Gabriel bowed low as he left.

### Scene III – On the Road

*(Cast: Mary, Joseph)*

Narrator: Joseph and Mary had been making their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It was a tough trek for a woman nearly nine months pregnant. They moved slowly, but why would they do otherwise? Who would want to be in a rush to get taxed anyway? Joseph did his best to keep Mary comfortable. Especially on those nights when there was no place to sleep except the cold hard ground. It's a long walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The terrain is through mountains and hills.

They had been doing well, and were now just outside of Bethlehem. Joseph would have probably reminisced about how much things had changed since he grew up there as a young boy. Maybe he would have told Mary about this new shop, or that new house.

Joseph: "Just inside the gate is the home where I grew up Mary. I wonder who lives there now? Probably no one I know. I haven't been back here in years."

Mary: "Joseph."

Joseph: "Yes?"

Mary: "It's time."

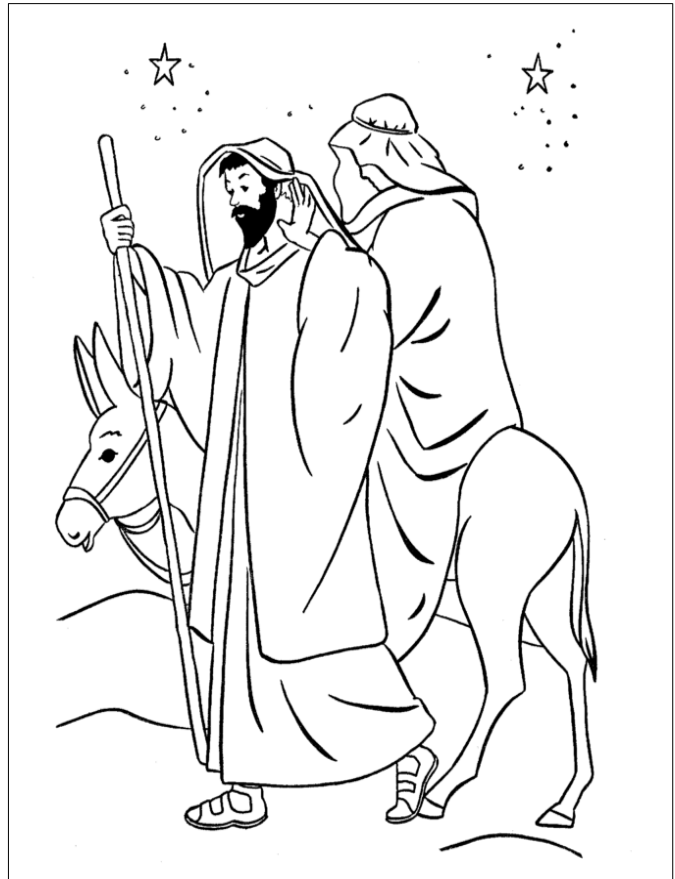
Joseph: "Time for what?"

Mary: "It's time Joseph!"

Joseph: "You mean... right now?  
Can't you wait?"

Mary: "These things happen when  
they happen Joseph."

Joseph: "O dear! Hold on! We're  
nearly there. The inn is not  
far away."



## Scene IV – At the Inn

*(Cast: Suzie, Zen, Man)*

Narrator: At the inn, Zen and Suzie were hustling and bustling about. There were just so many people. Suzie did her best to keep the kitchen rolling and food flowing, but,

Suzie: “Oh my, there’s just so many people Zen!”

Zen: “I know dear. Do your best. No hurry! Just.... ah, hurry!”

Narrator: They scurried about, trying to give everyone what they needed, as quickly as possible. They had already turned away so many people. They’d been full now for days.

Zen: “I have no idea what Rome was thinking with this hair-brained idea to make everyone travel like this. Do you think they’d ever give any thought to how we’re supposed to care for all these people?”

Suzie: “Zen, not so loud. You never know when a Roman guard could be walking by.”

Zen: “You’re right dear. I’m just frustrated.”

Narrator: A man came to the door of the inn and asked, like so many had in the past few days,

Man: “Do you have any room?”

Narrator: Zen could only respond,

Zen: “There’s nothing left. I’m sorry.”

Man: “Can we at least get some food?”

Zen: “I’m sorry, there’s just nothing left that we can do. We’re so busy with those we already have here. I’m sorry.”

Narrator: The man walked away.

Serving people, making up beds, hanging sheets for a little privacy in the rooms that were being shared. Neither of them had slept much in the last few days. Zen and Suzie were both very tired.



## Scene V – Back on the Road

(Cast: Mary, Joseph, Zen, Suzie)

(Hymn: Joy to the World - Ryan VanPelt)

Mary: “Oooh! Joseph! The time is near!”

Joseph: “It’s just down this short road. Hold on!”

Narrator: Joseph ran up to the door of the inn,

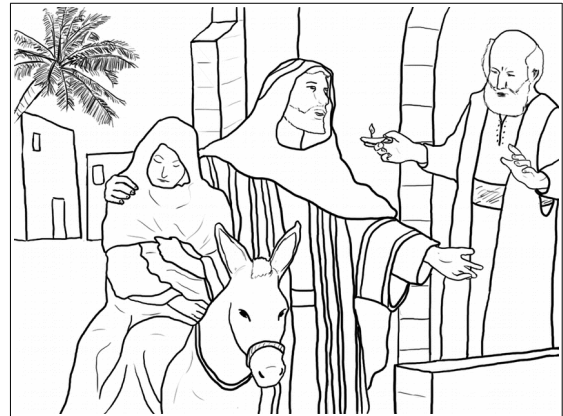
Joseph: “Do you have any room? My wife is about to give birth!”

Zen: “I’m sorry, there’s just nothing left that we can do. We’re so busy with those we already have here. I’m sorry.”

Joseph: “My wife is about to give birth!”

Zen: “There’s just nothing. I’m sorry.”

Suzie: “Wait! Zen, we can’t just turn them away.”



Zen: “What would you have me do Suzie? Throw out someone else?”

Suzie: “There must be something, Zen. What about the stable?”

Zen: “That’s no place for a baby to be born!”

Suzie: “Zen...”

Zen: “I haven’t had time to clean it out for days.”

Suzie: “Zen!”

Zen: “The smell would be...”

Suzie: Zen!!”

Zen: “What?!”

Suzie: “The baby is coming, Zen. We have to do something. The stable is better than the street.”

Zen: “... I suppose. There’s some fresh straw behind the stable. You can cover up some of the mess with that.”

Suzie: “Come with me.”

Zen: “Suzie, there are people to feed.”

Suzie: “They’ll just have to wait a little longer, Zen.”

Narrator: Suzie brought them out to the stable and showed them the extra straw.

Suzie: “I wish there was something more we could do, but it’s all been so busy. Please use anything that is here. Make yourselves as comfortable as you possibly can. I’ll bring some cloths out in a little while.”

Narrator: She scurried back to the inn, as quickly as she could.

Joseph raked out the floor of the stable, and then put down some fresh straw, and none to soon. Suzie ran out with some clean rags a little later. She could see the nervousness on Joseph’s face, and wished she could stay, but there was just so much to do.

Joseph: “This is no place for you Mary. We should not be doing this here. I feel like I’ve failed God, and you.”

Narrator: The night went on...  
Jesus was born...

### **Hymn: Joy to the World** (Ryan VanPelt)

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

*Text: Public domain*



## Scene VI – In the fields near Bethlehem

(Cast: Shepherd-1, Shepherd-2)

Narrator: In the fields near Bethlehem a shepherd spoke to another.

Shepherd-1: “I really enjoy working the flocks of Bethlehem. This bread we get is so good.”

Shepherd-2: “Especially when it’s warm, in the early morning. Oh and the smells coming from the town. It reaches all the way out into the fields.”

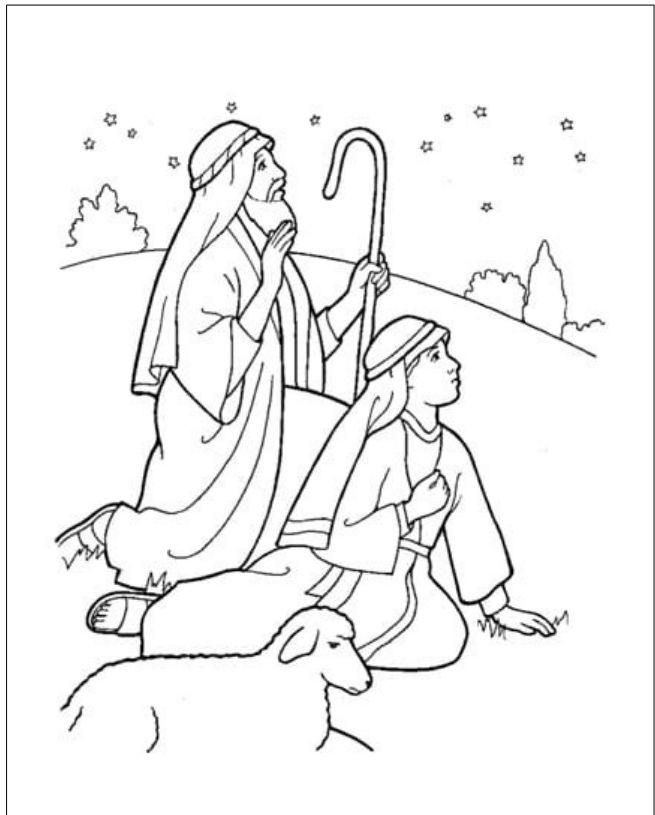
Narrator: It was now already early evening and the Sun had gone down. A few sheep bleated in the distance. It was an unusually quiet and peaceful night.

Shepherd-1: “It’s strange for the flock to be so quiet. There are always wolves about. Even if they are far off, some of the sheep are usually aware of them. They all just seem so peaceful tonight.”

Shepherd-2: “Normally I’d long for a good night’s rest, but I’ve slept well these past few days.”

Shepherd-1: “As did I. Things have been going very well.”

Narrator: The shepherds sat down to eat their bread, and tell stories around the campfire. It was perhaps the best night they had ever known. Certainly the best anyone could remember.



## Scene VII – Back at the Throne Room

*(Cast: Gabriel, God)*

Narrator: The time was near. There was concern on the face of God, and Gabriel.

Gabriel: “They are in a stable my Lord. No place for Your Son.  
Let me go down and take care of things.”

God: “No Gabriel. Things are as they must be.”

Gabriel: “Will the angel’s be singing in a stable my Lord?”

God: “No Gabriel, they will not. They will not go to any city, or sing to any king or governor.”

Gabriel: “What is Your desire my Lord?”

God: “They will go out to the fields and tell the lowest of my children. They will tell only the shepherds and no one else. You will see to that personally.”

Gabriel: “My Lord, I have served You for thousands of years. My wish today, as it was the first day, is only to fulfill Your commands. It will be done.”

God: “The time has come Gabriel. My Son, He is born. My Son!”





## Scene VIII – At the Stable

Narrator: As Mary held baby Jesus, the Son of God, in her arms Joseph sat near.  
He did not let her see his nervousness.  
She only saw his strength.

### Hymn: Away in a Manger – Zoe Kewatt

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*Text: Public domain*

## Scene IX – The Throne Room

*(Cast: Gabriel, Angels)*

*Hymn Solo: Hark the Herald Angels Sing - Abbie VanPelt)*

Narrator: Gabriel bowed low and left the throne room. This time the great doors did not close behind him. He spoke, and raised his voice so all of Heaven would hear. It crashed though the skies and shook the foundations.

Gabriel: “The Son of God is born to man!  
Give glory to the Lord Most High!”

Narrator: Everything that could make sound exploded with anthem and praise to the Father. All of Heaven rang out with glory. The Seraphim choirs sang throngs of jubilee and joy. The sound was deafening and glorious for all who beheld the wonder of it.

As the throng subsided, Gabriel spoke.

Gabriel: “You...  
You will go to tell the children of God.”

Narrator: All the company of Heaven looked with wonder at the one who was chosen. They were so excited for him. He was chosen to tell God’s children.

Gabriel: “You will go to the fields, outside Bethlehem, and announce the Messiah’s birth. Go gently now. God’s children are not accustomed to such throng as we have here in Heaven. Do not frighten them. Take care as you tell them. Go now...”

Narrator: A sly look appeared on his face... Then a wink...

Gabriel: ... the others will follow you in a moment.”

Narrator: Gabriel sheepishly smiled. Even the great General could not contain his joy. He saw the wonder on the faces of them all as the one angel left. He saw the question they did not dare ask,

Angels: “...others?”

Narrator: Then he spoke.

Gabriel: “You will all go to sing of the Messiah’s birth.”

Narrator: Heaven exploded again with anthem and song.  
Gabriel had to lift his hand for quiet.  
(A gesture he later warned them would never be required again.)  
Respectful silence fell instantly as he spoke.

Gabriel: “I remind you again, contain yourselves.  
God’s children have not seen such wonders. Do not frighten them!”

*... he paused long for affect...*

“You may go.”

Narrator: The power of the wind as wings spread, and song rang, was a force unmatched by any gale on Earth. Yet even over the roar, Gabriel’s voice could be heard.

Gabriel: “Send them to Bethlehem, to a manger. ...and take care of their sheep.”

**Hymn Solo: Hark the Herald Angels Sing** (*Abbie VanPelt*)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

*Text: Public domain*

## Scene X – Back in the Fields

*(Cast: Gabriel, Angel, Angels)*

*(Hymn Solo: Angels we Have Heard on High - Abbie VanPelt)*

Narrator: The one cherubim appeared to the shepherds.

Angel: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news, of great joy, that will be for all people.”

Narrator: He spoke softly at first. He tried so hard not to let his excitement get the best of him, but he just couldn’t help himself. His voice began to ring out,...



Angel: “Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger.”

Narrator: Suddenly, all around him the skies were filled with multitudes of angels. Cherubim and Seraphim singing,

Angels: “Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on Earth!”

Narrator: They sang it over and over again. The anthems of Heaven sung over the skies of the fields, just outside Bethlehem.

The shepherds were afraid and amazed, but ultimately, the angels watched the sheep, and the shepherds did walk into town. This time, however, it was not to get that wonderful bread, for which Bethlehem was known so well. This time, unbeknown to them, they were gazing at The Bread of Life.

As they came to the stable, and worshiped a King, declared and decreed by Heaven itself, Heaven looked on. As they spoke with Mary and Joseph, about what they had seen, and Mary and Joseph told them all they had seen, you can imagine how they all felt. You see, looming in the North, all lit up with torches and fire to warm the soldiers, was Herod’s palace.

Narrator: How they must have marveled at the wonder of evil King Herod, just five miles away, and here, as proclaimed by the angels of Heaven, the King of the whole world. The Messiah, the Christ, the One who would set God’s people free.

It would not surprise me at all to hear that the Shepherds sang praises to Jesus that night. Maybe even songs taught to them by the angels, who sing them still today in Heaven.

**Hymn Solo: Angels we Have Heard on High** (*Abbie VanPelt*)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: Public domain



## Scene XI – Back at the Inn

(Cast: Suzie, Zen, Shepherd-1, Shepherd-2)

(Hymn: *What Child is This* – Faith Kalliokoski)

Hymn: *Silent Night* – Blake VanPelt)

Narrator: The inn had calmed down as people fell asleep. In all the hustle and bustle Suzie had almost forgotten...

Suzie: “Zen!! That young couple in the stable, we’ve got to go out and see how they’re doing.”

Zen: “Oh, you’re right! I’m so tired.  
Come on, I’ll go with you.  
Let’s see if there’s anything more we can do for them.”



Narrator: They walked out behind the inn and were surprised to see a group of people gathered around the stable. Zen was annoyed and thought the young couple should have some privacy.

Zen: “What are you all doing here?! Have you never seen a baby before? Move along now!”

Narrator: No one moved. It was Suzie who noticed first,...

Suzie: “Zen, they’re all shepherds.”

Zen: “I don’t care who they are, there’s no need for them to bother these good people.”

Shepherd-1: “Sir, we’ve come to see the new born King.”

Zen: “King?! What sort of king is born in a stable. Are you mad? What are you doing here?”

Shepherd-2: “Sir, we were in the fields, outside of Bethlehem, when an angel came to tell us of the birth of the Messiah. We have come here, on his direction, to see the Christ child. We had too. After the angel told us these things, the whole sky was filled with angels. The fields were lit up like the daytime, and they were all singing, and giving glory to God. This is the place they told us to come. Joseph and Mary have told us that they were visited by an angel too. This is a very special child. He is the Son of God.”

Narrator: Zen was tired, and was in a hurry to get to bed. It was going to be a busy day tomorrow, and the next day... and the next day...  
He pushed his way up to the front of the crowd to ask Joseph if he wanted these

people to leave. When he got to the stable he saw Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus.

Mary just smiled, and as Zen looked at that little child his heart melted a little bit. All of the 'tired' was forgotten, and all the stress was left behind.

Zen: "Tell me again,... what did the angels tell you?"

**Hymn: What Child is This – Faith Kalliokoski**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*Text: Public domain*

Narrator: The shepherds told their story over again. Joseph and Mary also explained what they had seen and been told by an angel.

Zen hadn't given much thought to his faith in years. The inn kept him busy.

Zen: "You mean all those prophecies the priests have told us about, they're true? ... and this little baby, in my little stable, He's the One?"

Narrator: The shepherds, along with Mary and Joseph, all nodded as Zen came to the realization that this was a special, a holy night. This man, who never would have put much faith in faith, now was given faith to believe.

He knelt down with the shepherds, and sang songs of worship with them. Songs the shepherds were taught by the angels, and the arch-angels, earlier that night.

Songs that were sung by them, and all the company of Heaven, that night. Songs sung, because,

All: "Unto you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

He is Emmanuel, "God with us."

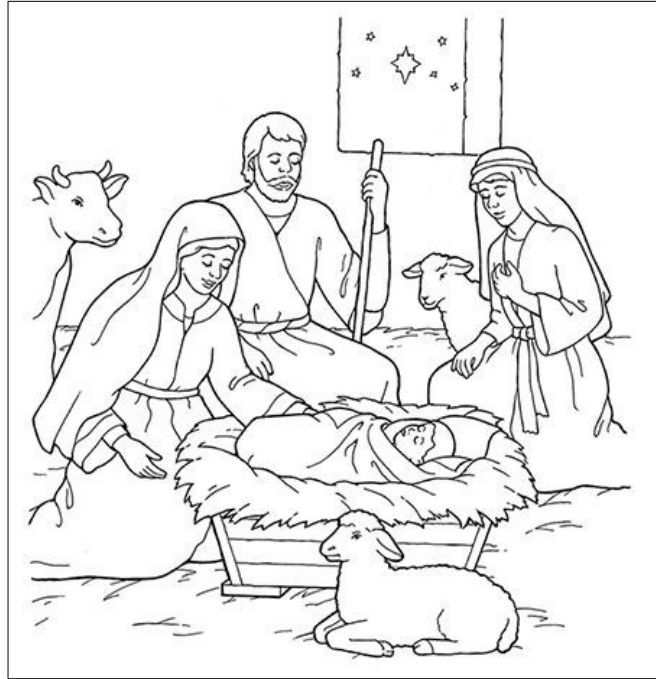
Narrator: It is for this reason we also sing. Because Jesus Christ is King,... and He has come to save us.

Merry Christmas!

### Hymn: Silent Night – Blake VanPelt

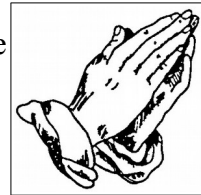
- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, 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.

*Text: Public domain*



### Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray:  
O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven. This we pray through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



- C** Amen.

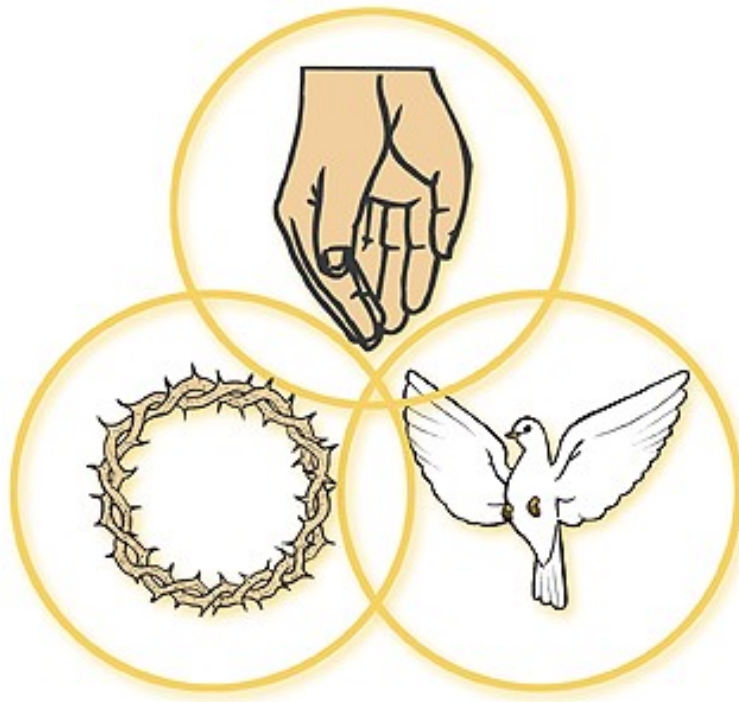
### The Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

## Benediction

**P** The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who kept His promise and sent His Son into the world; the ✝ Son, who was born as one of us to die in our place; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts to rejoice at the news of Jesus' birth—bless you and keep you in Christmas peace, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



Proclaim God's Word,  
Encourage one another in faith,  
Witness to God's love and  
Serve all people

