

No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Program

by Carolyn Peters with contributions by Theresa Cho and Nevan Hooker

The Amazing Story of Christmas

Note: As participants enter worship, they grab a character mask of their choice and take their seat. At the beginning of each part within the script, children and adults are invited to stand (as able) with their mask in front of their face – children come forward and face congregation.

Welcome: Good morning and welcome to worship today, where we will tell “The Amazing Story of Christmas. You should have received a mask upon entering Celebration Center this morning. Does everyone have a mask? Our characters today are Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, Animals, Angels, and Kings. As we go through the story today, we ask you to hold up your mask when instructed to do so. Children may come forward and turn to face the congregation; congregants may stand if they are able. Our narrators will read us the story, and we will hear a wonderful song at the beginning of each chapter.

Part I: Mary and Joseph

Children who wish to portray Mary and Joseph are invited forward as adults are invited to don their mask and stand if they are able. As the Marys’ and Josephs’ come forward, the musicians sing “The Magnificat.” When the Marys’ and Josephs’ are on stage, narrator begins.

Narrator: Welcome everyone to Bethlehem - hear the story of when Christ was born.

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight.

So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright.

Sickly or dying? What was the matter?

“A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter!

“My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.

There’ll not be a room in all of Bethlehem,” I said.

But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.

I couldn’t avoid them, so I tried a good deed.

I cleaned up the stable: Rachel cooked up a meal.

We helped all we could, at least, that’s how I feel.

For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon!

So we prepared for delivery right under the moon.

The child came quickly – and His face seemed a light.

For we were in God’s presence so bright.

Joseph said softly. “It’s Jesus, my friend.”

God sent him among us to bring an end

To fear and hatred, darkness and sin.

In Jesus, God gave light, to let His love in.

Part II: The Animals

Those children who wish to be stable animals are invited by narrator to come forward. As the animals come forward, the congregation sings "The Friendly Beasts." Congregants with animal masks stand if able. When the animals are on stage, narrator begins.

Narrator:

In the stable, my animals were calm, quieter than normal.
For they often were noisy, and never too formal.
Mooring and braying, eating or sleeping,
Their stable required continuous sweeping!
But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe
at the sight of the babe and all that they saw.
It's as if they were aware that God had just hushed them,
Had fed, watered, and carefully brushed them.
They felt, I believe, reverent and still,
Proud to play a part in God's Holy will.

Part III: Angels

Those who wish to be angels are invited forward. As the angels come forward, the congregation sings "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Congregants stand if able. When the angels are on stage, narrator begins.

Narrator:

We don't often see angels in flight,
But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.
They appeared to the shepherds and, gave them a scare-
"Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?"
"Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up?
Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?"
But, "Peace on earth; goodwill to all" was the angels' sweet song; *that* was their call.
With a light show that dazzled all who did see,
The angels hallelujah'ed and sang out with glee.
"To Bethlehem, shepherds!" they directed.
"To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected."
"Go worship the Lord and follow his ways.
And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

Part IV: Shepherds

Those who wish to be shepherds are invited forward. As the shepherds come forward, the congregation sings "Go Tell It on the Mountain." When the shepherds are on stage, narrator begins.

Narrator:

The shepherds, we told you, were scared and quite stunned.
"Too much hard work or too much hot sun!"
That's what they thought; that's how they explained.
Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.
But the angels' song calmed them, and then- they believed.
They rejoiced when they knew and they were quite relieved.
They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord.
Then they left and began to spread the good Word-
To all in the town – anyone who could hear.
Jesus, our Savior, today is born,
We now have nothing to fear!

Part V: Wise Persons and Star

Those who wish to be Wise Persons are invited forward. STAR is lit. As the Wise Persons come forward, the congregation sings "We Three Kings." When the Wise Persons are on stage, narrator begins.

Narrator:

The star that shone brightly led Wise Men at night
To Bethlehem's stable, to the manger's bright light.
They came bearing gifts, in worship and love,
praising God for His wonders from heaven above.
The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on the straw.
They brought the babe treasure, adored Him with awe.
This baby is Jesus our King, sent from God above
To show us the way – by living in love.
He will guide and teach us how to live,
And grace and forgiveness He will freely give.

Part VI: Conclusion

Narrator:

T'was the very first Christmas and there in the manger,
The Christ-child was born; it couldn't have been stranger.
Shepherds saw angels; Wise Men, a star.
They came to see Jesus; they came afar.
They knew He was special – God's very own son,
He came to the earth to love everyone.
He grew up in time, the Savior, our Lord,
To be worshiped each day; to be loved and adored.
So now at Christmas we all take delight
In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.
In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give,
Let us never forget, it's in Christ that we live.

We now invite everyone to join with us as we close by hearing "Joy to the World."

Everyone sings "Joy to the World"

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file:///C:/Users/LCC%20Staff/Downloads/COLORED-NATIVITY-MASKS.pdf

Cast/Set:

6 narrator parts

One light up star

Manger/Stable

Songs:

The Magnificat

The Friendly Beasts

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Go Tell It On The Mountain

We Three Kings

Joy to the World

