



After the ministers greet the audience, narrators begin.

Narrator : I welcome you all to the first Christmas. We start our story a few thousand years before the birth of Jesus. Here tonight we are going to meet a prophet called Isaiah. He is about to predict the birth of Jesus. Let's listen in.

Isaiah: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Narrator : Let's travel forward in time now. Three thousand years later, Isaiah's prophesy is fulfilled. God sent His angel Gabriel to deliver a message to a young couple in a small town in Galilee, called Nazareth. This couple is Mary and Joseph. Gabriel first visits Mary.

Gabriel: "Greetings O favored one, the Lord is with you." "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary: "How can this happen? I am not married!"

Narrators are standing stage middle at the edge of the brick pavers. Narrators turn to Isaiah to listen.

Isaiah is standing on the right side of the brick pavers in front of the sanctuary.

Mary is seated on a bale of hay on the lawn.

Gabriel starts out back on the left side of the sanctuary and walks towards Mary. He stops just beside her.

Gabriel: “The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God’s power will come over you.

So your child will be called the Holy Son of God.

Gabriel moves back toward sanctuary.

Mary: I am the Lord’s servant! Let it happen as you have said.”

“Mary Had a Baby” Angel Choir

Narrator : When Mary told her Fiancée Joseph that she was with child **(Pause)** he did not want to marry her.

(Pause) So that very evening when he laid down to sleep the same angel Gabriel came to him in a dream.

Joseph moves onto the set where Mary is.

Pretends to listen as Mary tells story.

Then Joseph moves away to “sleep’.

Gabriel: Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.

Gabriel moves over to Joseph and speaks.

Narrator : When Joseph woke from sleep he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife.

Narrator needs to wait to speak until Joseph wakes up and moves.

Joseph wakes up. Walks over to Mary and pretends to talk to Mary.

“O Come O come Emmanuel” Angel Choir

Narrator: In those days, the Emperor Augustus gave orders that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone had to go to their hometown to be counted. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem.

Bethlehem had been King David’s hometown, and Joseph and Mary needed to go there because he was from King David’s family.

Joseph: The trip is long and hard Mary and with you being so far along are you sure you would want to join me on this journey?

Mary: I will be fine, let us go together. The Lord will watch over us as we travel and He will provide.

"O Little town of Bethlehem" Angel Choir

Narrator : The Journey was long lasting many days and nights. When arriving in the town of Bethlehem they were both tired from travel and wanted nothing more than to find a place to rest. They walked the city checking each Inn, but there was no room in any of them. They were about to give up hope when one Inn keeper offered Joseph and Mary his stable where they could stay the night.

Inn Keeper: I have no more room in my inn. You may stay in my stable. It is not much, but it is dry and warm.

Narrator : On that very night Mary gave birth to Jesus, **(Pause)** she wrapped him in swaddling clothes **(Pause)** and laid him in the manger.

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Narrator : There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. When an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Angel One: "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Narrator : Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Heavenly Host of Angels: "Glory to God in the highest!!!!

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Angel Choir

Narrator : When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another...

During the song , Joseph escorts Mary around the grassy area in a semi circle toward the stable. Walk slowly.

The reach a spot where the Inn Keeper is standing. They have a conversation.

The Inn Keeper motions to the stable. Joseph leads Mary in and she sits down.

Angel moves out to the edge of the 'porch'. Shepherds are all gathered together. Talking, to each other.

Angel raises arms in the air.

Shepherds look stunned, fall to the ground– scared.

Angel backs toward the sanctuary.

Shepherds: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about!"

Narrator : So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. And when they saw them the shepherds told Mary and Joseph what the Angel said about the child.

Shepherds: The Angel said a savior was born. (Chatter to Mary about what they heard and saw)

Narrator : When they had seen him, they spread the word about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **(Pause)** The shepherds then returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen which were just as they had been told.

"Away In the Manger"

Angel Choir

Narrator : After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. They came in following a star that appeared in the night's sky.

Magi One: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

Magi Two: "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Magi Three: The star we had seen in the east went ahead of us until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Narrator : King Herod was concerned with this speaking of King of the Jews. **(Pause)** He sent the Magi on their way hoping that they find where the baby was and tell him so he could to kill this King of the Jews.

Herod: Go now and find the baby, then come back to me and tell me where this king lives, so I might have the chance to worship him too.

Shepherds walk toward the stable.—
conversing with each other.

At the stable, they speak to Mary.

The shepherds walk away. They go back towards the wise men and hand off the microphone.



TURN STAR ON as song begins

During Away in the Manger, Magi walk out from beside the camel area to speak with Herod. As they walk close, they seem amazed at his Temple.

Motion with had about the star moving and stopping.

Herod acts concerned.

Motion the Magi away.

Narrator : The Magi traveled and followed the star into the city of Bethlehem. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **(Pause)** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him **(Pause)**. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

"We Three Kings"

Angel Choir

Narrator : An angel of the Lord warned the Magi about Herod's plans to kill Jesus, **(Pause)** so the Magi left a different way not returning to Herod

Narrator : Herod never did find out where Jesus was and was unsuccessful in his attempt to kill him.

Narrator: Thus ends our Christmas story, but the story of his life does not end here this is only the beginning.

Narrator : Still today, two thousand years after His birth, wise men still seek Jesus.

Narrator : As blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the dead will live again.

Narrator : For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Narrator : Joy to the world!!!!

"Joy To The World"

Closing comments from Associate: Thank you for attending our performance of the FPC Living Nativity. (Hot Chocolate and Cookies)

Magi leave and follow the star to the stable. Excitedly point upon arriving.

One by one enter the stable and place gifts.

At the end of the song, magi stand up and start to walk back toward Herod. Gabriel walks out, waving arms and motions them to go the other way. Magi exit behind the stable.