

# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2016

OFSS  
3 December 2017

## FINAL SCRIPT

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PRELUDE (3:50 P.M.) ALL CHARACTERS (EXCEPT THE SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP) ARE TO BE IN PLACE:

1. Mary, Joseph, the donkey, the wise men, and the pages are on the pew in the narthex.
2. Procession order:
  - Acolytes
  - Assistant Organist and Canon for Music
  - Choristers - to the risers
  - Allegro Choir — to the risers
  - Miss Brenda
  - Cathedral Choir Lead Star - stands behind the manger by altar rail
  - Two Head angels-stand on either side of the Lead star
  - Narrators - take seats behind the Lectern
  - All Stars (single file)
  - Herod
  - Herod's court—sit on the steps to the pulpit
  - Soldiers--- sit on chairs behind pulpit
  - Innkeeper - sits on 3<sup>rd</sup> pew - lectern side with family
  - 2 Head Angels - Lead younger angels through side doors to reappear later
  - Angels - 1<sup>st</sup> and K- exit through side doors to reappear later
  - 2 Head Angels
  - Angels--2nd graders

CHOIR AND ALL: OPENING HYMN #83, O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL,  
stanzas 1-6

OPENING ACCLAMATION (Celebrant)

COLLECT (Celebrant)

Congregation: "Amen"

Narrator # 1

"The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place this way: (PAUSE)

ML 1:18

Lk. 1:26-38  
(edited)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored One! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Where do  
Mary and  
Joseph live?

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."

Narrator # 2

"Now, Mary had been engaged to Joseph. Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just as he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, a son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary for his wife."

MT. 1:19-24  
(edited)

Does the angel  
appear to Mary  
and Joseph?

**Allegro Children and Choristers: Hymn 265, stanzas 1 and 3 "The Angel Gabriel"**

*(As Narrator #3 begins, Mary, Joseph, and the donkey slowly walk up the aisle together. The Innkeeper steps out to the center aisle and turns to meet them.)*

Narrator #3

Lk. 2:1-5

Where in Bethlehem was Jesus born?

"In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was Governor of Syria. All went to their towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child."

*(Mary, Joseph, and the donkey approach the innkeeper)*

*All sing: Hymn 79, stanzas 1 and 5 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

*(During this song, the Innkeeper turns and leads Mary, Joseph and the donkey to the manger.)*

NARRATOR #4

Lk. 2:6,7

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

*(Mary picks up the baby from the manger and holds it.)*

*(Move Shepherds and Sheep to Narthex after Narrator #4 and during this next song.)*

*All sing: Hymn 115, stanza 1 "What Child Is This"*

Narrator #5

Lk. 2:8-12

Who were the first to see Jesus?

"In that region there were Shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them: 'Do not be afraid; For see... I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Messiah, Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'"

Allegro choir and choristers: Hymn 105, stanzas 1-4 "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"

*(As the song begins, the shepherds and sheep begin to enter the Cathedral and come down the aisle in clumps, as if the sheep are being herded. Sheep are crawling. Shepherds are tending the animals. Assign two older shepherds to "sweep" to make sure no sheep are left behind.)*

(Wait for the animals and shepherds to get settled.)

Narrator #6

Lk 2:13-14

"And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'"

*(The Archangels lead the smaller angels out to take their places. Archangels stand behind the manger. Kindergarten angels come out the left door and come up to the front rail. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade angels are on the right side and they fill in behind the altar rail.)*

All sing: Hymn 87, stanza 1 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Narrator # 7

Lk 2:15-20  
(ad lib)

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us'. So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. The Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God, for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them."

Allegro, Choristers and Cast: Hymn 99 "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Narrator # 8

Mat. 2:1-2

How many kings  
were there?

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'"

All sing: Hymn 128, stanza 1 "*We Three Kings*"

(When the organ starts, the three kings and their pages walk slowly one at a time down the aisle and stand under the pulpit. Dale will play until they are settled.)

*(Herod steps into the pulpit with his court members on either side of him. His soldiers gather around the foot of the pulpit looking up at Herod. The Wise Men stop under the pulpit and look up at Herod.)*

Narrator # 9

Mat. 2:3-6

"When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Narrator # 10

Mat. 2:7-9

"Then Herod called for the Wise Men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they heard the king, they set out and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was."

Allegro Choir and Choristers: Hymn 92, stanzas 1 and 3 "*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*" (Cast joins in on the chorus)

Narrator # 11

Mt. 2:10-11

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

All Sing: Hymn 112, stanza 4 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

*(During the song, the pages and the Wisemen step out one by one at the bottom of the steps. Each page bows and hands the Wiseman his gift. The Wiseman then turns, goes up the steps, and places it by the manger. Then he kneels down on the side of the steps making room for the next Wiseman. The pages kneel behind each Wiseman.)*

Narrator # 12

Mt. 2:12

"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the wise men left for their own country by another road."

Lk 2:19, 52

And Mary treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor."

"The word of the Lord"

Congregation: "Thanks be to God!"

*George steps out and faces the children for a blessing. No one moves. After the prayer, the Choristers and Allegro Choir sing stanza one of Hymn 102, "Once in Royal David's City" unaccompanied. When the organ enters and the congregation joins in singing the hymn on stanza 2, the Choristers move to join the staff singers behind the altar screen via the Andrews ambulatory, and the rest of the cast begins to exit in the following order:*

- Lead Star
- Wisemen and Pages
- Mary, Joseph and the Donkey
- Innkeeper
- Sheep and Shepherds
- Head angels
- Angels
- Herod, Court, Soldiers
- Stars (Ushers will get stars and put them in The Court of Gratitude on the wall with the Creche)

*Is there more to the story?*

Narrators - to the Narthex where they sit on the pews  
Allegro Choir - Follow Miss Brenda

The children undress quickly in Room 161 and then proceed to the Narthex to process into the Cathedral to join their families at the offertory. **Ushers remove the props when the Offertory hymn begins, following the announcements.** Thank you!