



THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
DECEMBER 17, 2011
TWO PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

*Please set all pagers, phones, and alarm watches to silent settings.
Special amplification for the hearing impaired may be arranged with an usher.*

PRELUDE

A prelude of familiar children's carols arranged for the carillon

WELCOME

All stand to sing.

HYMN

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
Refrain



THE FIRST STORY: JESUS IS BORN

The people sing as the Holy Family comes to Bethlehem.

HYMN

The people sing.

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!



THE SECOND STORY: THE ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS ARRIVE

Angels announce the Good News to the shepherds.

The people sing as the shepherds come to adore the newborn child.

HYMN

The people sing.

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.



THE THIRD STORY: THE MAGI COME TO WORSHIP

The people sing as the kings journey to Bethlehem.

HYMN

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever,
ceasing never
over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

THE ARRIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

The animals come to see the newborn child.



An offering is received to support the ministries of the Cathedral.

OFFERTORY HYMN

The people sing.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

PRAYER



HYMN

The people stand and sing.

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.

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.

BLESSING

HYMN

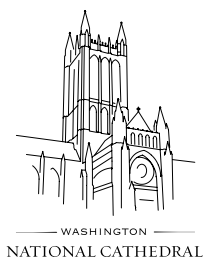
Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*



*The Reverend Gina Gilland Campbell and Dr. Gregory Finch, ministers of ceremonies
Diane DuTeil, Lansing Lee, and Paula Mays, storytellers
Peter and Elizabeth Welsch, and Katherine Jean Welsch, holy family
Cathedral Volunteers, cast of characters
Mary Tierney, casting and costume coordinator
Haley Dettra and Alexandra Zepeda, pageant coordinators
Jeremy Filsell, artist in residence
Mark Huffman, sound engineer
Edward Nassor, carillonneur
Cathedral Voices*

*Many, many, many thanks to all the participants, on stage and behind the scenes,
for their time and enthusiasm which make this pageant possible.*



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