

THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008 AT 2 PM
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL**

PARTICIPANTS

MINISTER OF CEREMONIES	The Reverend Canon Carol L. Wade
MEDITATION AND BLESSING	The Rt. Reverend John Bryson Chane
STORYTELLERS	Barbara Powell Johnson Kathleen Keenan Steve Beam
HOLY FAMILY	Anja Brau, Geoffrey Blanford, and Calvin Blanford
CAST OF CHARACTERS	Cathedral Volunteers
COSTUME COORDINATORS	Mary Tierney and Lauren Smeeding
COSTUME HELPERS	Lynn Harris, Lindsey Jeavons, Mary Lynn Jones
ORGANIST	Christopher Jacobson
SOUND ENGINEER	Mark Huffman
CHOIR	Cathedral Voices
CARILLONNEUR	Edward Nassor

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



*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.*

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of God the Father;
Refrain

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

All are seated.

THE FIRST STORY: JESUS IS BORN

The people sing as the Holy Family comes to Bethlehem.

HYMN

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.

The people stand.

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!

All are seated.





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

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.

The people stand.

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.

All are seated.



**THE THIRD STORY:
THE WISE ONES COME TO WORSHIP**

The people sing as the Wise Ones 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

The people stand.

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

All are seated.



**THE ARRIVAL OF THE ANIMALS
AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD**

The animals come to see the newborn child.

An offering will be taken 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.



MEDITATION

HYMN *The people 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.

The people are silent between verses.

The people stand.

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.

PRAYER AND 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!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain



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