

*Children will meet in the designated classrooms and wait with a parent/youth helper until it is their time to enter the church for the pageant.

TRACY WILL BE IN THE BACK DIRECTING CHILDREN DOWN THE AISLE.

NARRATORS:

1. Anna McLean
2. Lydia Goldthwait
3. Harrison Brown
4. Jillian Atkins

MARY: Clare Sweeney

JOSEPH: Timothy

BABY JESUS: Doll?

DONKEY: Nicholas

DOVE: Torrie Brown

Inn Keeper: Mara

Inn Keeper: Lena

ANIMALS: (enter from the side in the beginning& sit in the stable)

GROUP LEADER: Joseph

DONKEY: Joy and Joseph Macris

Nathan Decker

COWS: Elise

SHEEP:

CAT: Peter Saroch

SHEPHERDS

LEADER: Crispin Blamphin

John Goldthwait

Rex Rambo

SHEEP

LEADER:

Wilson

Henry

Addison McLean

Nash Pagoota

Riley McLean

Owen

Reid Pagoota

Juliet Luers

Lili

ANGELS:

LEADER: Brigid Saroch

Gemma

Leslie

Brooke

Sophia

Sydney

Emily Bontempo (not here on 19th, need costume)

Caroline Bontempo (not here on 19th, need costume)

THREE KINGS:

STAR: Julia

1. Ray Rambo

2. Lean Sweeney

3. Kaitlyn Bontempo (Not here on 19th, need costume)

CAMELS: (2 older kids for the large costume)

1.

2.

3.

****NEED PARENT/YOUTH HELPERS IN THE CLASSROOMS.**

A Children's Liturgy for Christmas Eve

From The Godly Play stories

SANDRA (Will be in the front of the church during the pageant)

This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go.

NARRATOR 1: HARRISON

The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years, the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. Bethlehem" means "House of Bread."

In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary cow leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

SONG: "IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR" EVERYONE

ENTER FROM THE SIDE:

THE INN KEEPERS WILL STAND OFF TO THE SIDE.

A DONKEY, COW, CAT, SHEEP SIT IN THE STABLE AREA.

NARRATOR 2: LYDIA

As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born so long ago.

They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax. But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

SONG: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" (EVERYONE)

ENTER THE BACK OF THE CHURCH: MARY AND JOSEPH, WITH THE DONKEY, START SLOWLY WALKING DOWN THE CENTER AISLE. THEY APPROACH THE INNKEEPERS. THE INNKEEPERS DIRECT THEM TO THE STABLE. THEY SIT IN FRONT OF STABLE.

NARRATOR 3: ANNA

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the manger that his father has filled with straw.

SONG PLAYING?

ENTER: BABY JESUS IS PLACED ON MARY'S LAP

NARRATOR 4: ANNA

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter: the faces of angels.

The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the city of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord."

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all people, everywhere."

The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and are overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.

SONG: "THE FIRST NOEL" (EVERYONE)

ENTER FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH: SHEPHERDS AND THEN THE ANGELS

SONG: "AWAY IN THE MANGER" (KIDS ONLY)

NARRATOR 5: JILLIAN

Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King.

SONG: "WE THREE KINGS" (EVERYONE)

ENTER FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH: THE STAR AND THE THREE KINGS

NARRATOR 6: JILLIAN

The kings' journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

So now we all come, following the star, to find God with us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.

SONG: "JOY TO THE WORLD" (CHILDREN ONLY)

****Children return to their parents in the pews.**

****Costumes are returned to the classrooms after the service.**

SPIRIT SINGERS WILL BE SINGING DURING THE OFFERTORY.