

A Fellowship Christmas

ACT ONE

(Black out with "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel". After song fades to black out with a spot light on narrator.)

Narrator M: Since the first sin of Adam and Eve, mankind has suffered under the consequences of their own sinful choices.

=====PAUSE AUDIO=====

Child: Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God

Child: 2 Peter 3:9 But God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. He loves us and wants us with Him so He has a plan to save us from our sins.

Child: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

=====PLAY AUDIO=====

Narrator M: This is the true story of the greatest act of love this world has ever witnessed! Over two thousand years ago in a land far across the sea called Israel, a young woman lived in Nazareth. She didn't know it yet, but God had chosen her for something very special, a long-anticipated prophecy was about to be fulfilled!

Narrator W: The angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. Once there, he was to deliver an important message to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary.

(Spotlight on Mary kneeling center stage in prayer / startled and reacting with concern to what the angel has to say)

Narrator M: Hail, *thou that art* highly favored, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women. Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women! Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

Narrator W: Mary was afraid and did not understand how this could happen because she was a virgin. But the angel explained.

Narrator M: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. For with God nothing will be impossible.

Narrator W: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

===== **PAUSE AUDIO** =====

(SONG or narration)

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

(Joseph enters as his name is mentioned and interacts with Mary according to the narration)

===== **PLAY AUDIO** =====

Narrator W: When Mary was found with child of the Holy Ghost, Joseph did not understand that this was a miracle. Because he was a just and honorable man, he could not marry her under what he saw as immoral circumstances. But he did love her and

was not willing to make her a public example, so he decided to break off their engagement privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream,

=====PAUSE AUDIO=====

(Mary and Joseph part ways and Mary goes of stage while Joseph paces for a bit and then "sleeps-on-it")

=====PLAY AUDIO=====

Narrator M: Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

=====PAUSE AUDIO=====

Child: Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

=====PLAY AUDIO=====

Narrator M: Then Joseph woke and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife.

=====PAUSE AUDIO=====

Child: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

=====PLAY AUDIO=====

Narrator M: So, Joseph took Mary, who by then was very great with child, and went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;

=====PAUSE AUDIO=====

(SONG - Oh Little Town of Bethlehem / Joseph and Mary make their way off stage and around the side against the wall to come back up to the stage through the center of the audience interacting with people on the way.)

=====PLAY AUDIO=====

Narrator M: Now, because of the census, Bethlehem was very crowded, and all the Inns were overflowing with people who had come to be registered. Joseph and Mary searched but could not find any room to stay in.

===== **PAUSE AUDIO** =====

(Allow Joseph and Mary to get to the front tables before reading the following)

===== **PLAY AUDIO** =====

Narrator M: Finally the weary travelers talked to an innkeeper who was willing to let them stay in his stable. And so it was, that, while they were there, Mary delivered her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

===== **PAUSE AUDIO** =====

(SONG - Away in a Manger)

Child: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Child: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

===== **PLAY AUDIO** =====

Narrator M: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

===== **PAUSE AUDIO** =====

(SONG - Angels We Have Heard on High)

Child: Let's go to Bethlehem right now, and see this miracle, that the Lord has told us about!

===== **PLAY AUDIO** =====

Narrator M: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And his name is Jesus!

===== **PAUSE AUDIO** =====

Child: Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end

=====PLAY AUDIO=====

Narrator M: Now when Jesus was born, an unusual star appeared in the east and was observed by wise men who knew it was a sign, that The King had been born. The star went before them till it came and stood over the house where Jesus lived.

=====PAUSE AUDIO=====

(SONG - We Three Kings / Wise men march with pomp and circumstance to the house. Each king stepping forward to present his gift as it is sung about / freeze when song is finished / Spot on cross and child)

Child: Isaiah 53:2-12

He shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

(SONG - Oh Lamb of God / MESSAGE / SONG - Joy to The World)