

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Practice Times & Dates:

Saturday November 19th
1pm - 2:30 pm

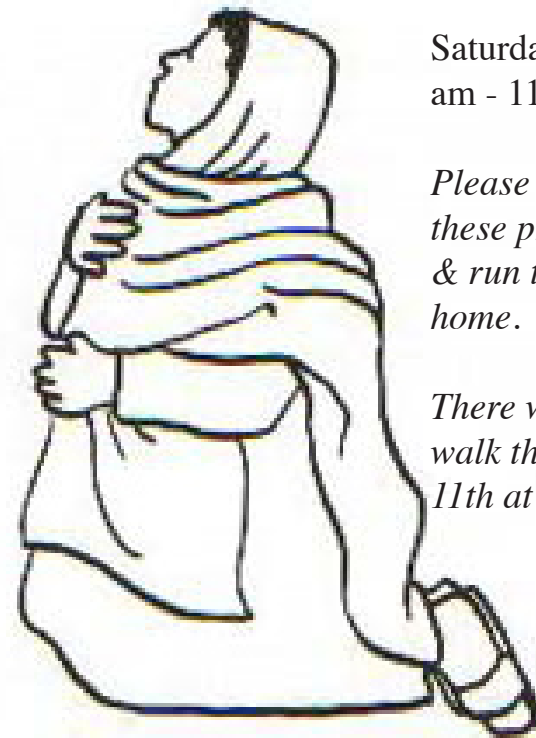
Saturday November 26th
10am - 11:30 am

Thursday December 1st
6pm - 7pm

Saturday December 3rd 10
am - 11:30

*Please make as many of
these practices as possible
& run through lines at
home.*

*There will be one more
walk through on December
11th at 9:15 am.*



Cast:

3 Narrators:	Erin , Andrew Mason, Joseph Broome
Mary:	Kara Chittom
Joseph:	Michael Barber
Gabriel:	Emma Waltenbaugh
Innkeeper 1:	Tanner Kemp
Innkeeper 2	Levi Waites
Wife of Inkeeper 2	Anne Marie Wallace
Shepherds 1, 2, 3	Matthew Wallace, Andrew Maddern, Peyton Holder
Angel of the Lord	Isaac Broome
Three Kings	Rylan Pirce-James, Noah Pirce-James, Caleb Chittom
Sheep	Andrew Wallace, Harper Kingsley, Will Kingsley
Star	Alyssa Maddern
Page	Luke Waites
Camel	Brody Strong
Angels (Heavenly Host)	Ashley Torr, Julie Torr, Brooke Torr,

Scene I

The Prophecy of Isaiah

Narrators 1, 2 & 3 enter stage left, and proceed to the lectern, behind the Altar and to the pulpit respectively.

Narrator 1 (Erin)

In this holy season we celebrate good news of great joy: God has sent his Son to live among us and fulfill his purpose. Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, foretelling the birth of the Messiah and the coming of his kingdom.

Narrator 2 (Andrew Mason)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge, and the fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

Narrator 3 (Joseph Broome)

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

Narrators (in unison)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

H 56

Stanzas 1, 4, and 7.

Sung by congregation

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

During singing, enter Mary and kneel at center of stage.

Scene II The Annunciation

Narrator 1 (Erin) The Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Enter Gabriel

Gabriel (Emma Waltenbaugh) Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.

Mary recoils in surprise.

Gabriel (Emma W) Don't be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary (Kara Chittom) How shall this be, since I have no husband?

Gabriel (Emma W) The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born of you will be called holy, the Son of God.

For with God, nothing will be impossible.

Mary (Kara C) Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

Exit Gabriel

Narrator 1 (Erin) And the angel departed from her.

Mary (Kara C) My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
(reading from script or my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;*
BCP) for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

Congregation joins in From this day all generations will call me blessed:*
(Canticle 15, page 91 of the Almighty has done great things for me,
the Book of Common and holy is his Name.
Prayer) He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,*
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,*
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,*
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

during the Song of Mary, enter Joseph. Mary rises and turns to him. Joseph and Mary go off stage (stage right) and make their way to the rear of the congregation.

Innkeepers and Wife of Innkeeper 2 take their places in the "inns."

Scene III

The Arrival in Bethlehem

Narrator 2 (Andrew)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee ...

(Enter Joseph and Mary, slowly, up center aisle, Mary leaning on Joseph.)

... from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David; to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

Joseph & Mary halt partway up the aisle

Joseph (Michael Barber) *(pointing ahead)* Look, Mary! I see the lights of David's city.

Mary (Kara C) Thanks be to God. I can scarcely go another step.

They go slowly on until they reach the first inn

Joseph (Michael B.) Take heart, Mary. Here is an inn. We'll ask for a place to stay.

Joseph knocks at the Inn. Innkeeper I looks up from table/reading

Innkeeper 1 (Tanner Kemp) Who's there?

Joseph (Michael Barber) Two travelers, seeking lodging.

Innkeeper 1 (Tanner K) What can you pay?

Joseph (Michael B) We are poor people, sir; we ...

Innkeeper 1 (Tanner K) *(interrupting)* I have no room for you!

Mary (Kara C) Is there another inn, please?

Innkeeper 1 (Tanner K) Try over there (*motions in direction of the second inn*)
Perhaps they may take you.

Looks back down at what he was doing

Joseph (Michael B) Come, Mary. (*they proceed across to the second inn*)

This must be the place.

Joseph knocks. Innkeeper 2 and Wife emerge.

Innkeeper 2 (Levi Waites) The inn's full! Nowhere to stay!

Joseph (Michael B) Please, sir ... my wife's time is upon her ...

Wife (Anne Marie Wallace) Mercy on us! What shall we do for this poor woman? I know! Come, we'll put you in the stable. It isn't much, but it's warm and dry—will that do?

Mary (Kara C) You are very kind ...

Wife takes Mary by the arm; she and Joseph lead Mary off stage by side route. Innkeeper 11 retires.

Narrator 2 (Andrew) And she gave birth to her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

(sung by congregation, stanzas 1 and 2)
—The Hymnal 1982, #102

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

During singing: enter Shepherds & Sheep, take places on stage.

Scene IV

The Shepherds

Narrator 3 (Joseph) It is written in the Book of Isaiah, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”
(Pause.)
Now in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Shepherd 1 (Matthew Wallace) Oh, it’s a cold one tonight.

Blows on hands, rubs them together

Shepherds (all of them) Yep—That it is—That’s true enough—You can say that again--etc.

Shepherd 2 (Andrew Maddern) Whose turn is it to watch?

Shepherd 3 (Peyton) Tobias and I did it last night.

Shepherd 2 (Andrew Maddern) That's right. It's your turn Ebenezer.

Shepherd I (Matthew Wallace) All right... the rest of you get some rest.

Shepherd 1 and Shepherd 2 settle in, sitting up. Remainder of Shepherds lie down and pull cloaks over their heads, etc.

Pause.

Narrator 3 (Joseph B.) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them ...

Enter Angel.

Sleeping Shepherds cry out and sit bolt upright, covering eyes. Shepherd 1 and Shepherd 2 back away, cowering and hiding faces.

Shepherds (all of them) Look!—What's that?!—Lord have mercy on us!—
Heaven defend us!!—Help!!!—It's a ghost!—It's a
demon!—etc.

Angel of the Lord (Isaac Broome) Dont' be afraid. I bring you good news of a great joy which is
meant for everyone!

A Savior has just been botn in the city of David , a Savior who
is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: you will find a
baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Narrator 3 (Joseph B.) And suddenly there was with the angel ...

*(Angels enter at a run--or as quickly as the smallest angel allows
;-).*)

... a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God
and saying,

Angels (heavnlly host), *(shouted)* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to
(Ashley, Julie & Brooke his people on earth!
Torr)

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful
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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

As they sing, Shepherds leave stage and go down center aisle, with joyful expressions, sometimes skipping or dancing, or raising arms in praise.

Tambourines and bells may be used. Sheep scamper after.

Instrumental Music: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

During instrumental interlude, Shepherds proceed inconspicuously to a point from which they can come on stage. They wait there with Sheep and Sheepdog, while Angel of the Lord brings manger, with the Christ Child in it, and places it in center of stage. Mary, Joseph, Ox, and Donkey take places around manger.

Meanwhile, Three Kings, Star, and Page(s) go inconspicuously to back, ready to come up center aisle in Scene VI.

Scene V The Adoration of the Shepherds

Narrator 1 (Erin) When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds went with haste ...

(Enter Shepherds & Sheep and gather around manger.)

... and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Carol: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(stanza 6, sung by Shepherds alone if possible)
—The Hymnal 1982, #83

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord.

Narrator 1 (Erin) And when they had seen it, they returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(stanza 1, sung by
Shepherds alone if
possible)
—The Hymnal 1982,
#79

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.

Scene VI

The Magi

Narrator 2

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea
in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men
from the East came to Jerusalem. For they had seen
his star in the East ...

(Enter Star and proceed slowly up center aisle.)

... and had come to worship him. And lo, the star
which they had seen in the East went before them,
till it came to rest over the place where the child
was....

*(Star takes stand behind and above manger. Kings and
Pages start up aisle.)*

...When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly
with great joy.

Carol: "We Three Kings
of Orient Are"
(stanza 1, sung by Kings
alone, if possible)
—The Hymnal 1982,
#128

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!

