

# Christmas Pageant 2019

Ss. Peter and Clement

**Cast (in order of appearance):** Prophet Isaiah, Narrator, Mary, Angel Gabriel, Joseph, Animals, Shepherds (2-3), Angels (2-3), Three Wise men (3), King Herod.

*At the beginning of the pageant, the house lights should be on low.*

*Ushers distribute candles to people as they enter.*

*When the time is right, the prophet Isaiah appears, front and center, carrying a scroll with a message to proclaim:*

The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
 on them light has shined...  
 For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests on his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn: People Look East (WLP #724)

*During the hymn, the Prophet Isaiah departs via one of the side aisles. On the final verse, the Narrator steps up to the pulpit. Also during the final verse, Mary appears front and center with a mop and bucket doing house chores. After a few moments, the Narrator begins.*

*The angel Gabriel makes his way to the front via one of the side aisles.*

*The house lights gradually brighten.*

**Narrator:** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

**Gabriel:** 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'

*Mary drops her mop and throws up her hands in a dramatic gesture of surprise.*

**Narrator:** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

**Gabriel:** ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

*Mary shrugs her shoulders in wonderment.*

**Narrator:** Mary said to the angel,

**Mary:** ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’

**Narrator:** The angel said to her,

**Gabriel:** ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’

**Narrator:** Then Mary said,

**Mary:** ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’

**Narrator:** Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1: 26-38)

Hymn: Canticle of the Turning (attached)

*During the hymn, Gabriel and Mary return to the church entryway.*

*A manger is placed directly in front of the altar. Children dressed as animals are invited to gather around the manger, making animal noises etc.*

**Narrator:** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

*Joseph, with staff in hand, and a very pregnant Mary (perhaps holding her stomach), start to make their way down the center aisle to the front, stopping every once for Mary to rest.*

**Narrator:** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

*By this point, Mary and Joseph should be up front.*

**Narrator:** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*A baby “appears” or is given to Mary to hold, and placed in the manger. Mary and Joseph stand on their side of the manger.*

*Hymn: Away in a Manger vs. 1 & 2. Again, during the hymn, the Holy Family and animals remain in place in “tableau vivant.” During the hymn, the angels make their way up the stairs to the balcony.*

*During the last verse of the hymn, the shepherds, with staffs in hand, appear in the main aisle, at the baptismal font.*

**Narrator:** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

*An angel stands at the front of the balcony, and gestures dramatically to the shepherds.*

**Narrator:** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

*The shepherds turn to face the angel, then cower on their knees in fear.*

**Narrator:** But the angel said to them,

**Gabriel:** ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’

*A handful of other angels step up beside the first angel and gesture dramatically.*

**Narrator:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and singing

*Song: Taize “Gloria” (sung through 3 times). During the song, the shepherds and angels remain in place in “tableau vivant.” When the song ends, the angels retreat, and the shepherds turn to face the front.*

**Narrator:** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*The shepherds make their way to the front, and kneel at the manger.*

**Narrator:** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2: 8-20)

**Hymn:** In the Bleak Midwinter (verses 1-4.) *During the hymn, all shepherds remain at the manger. The angels descend from the balcony and appear at the manger, behind Mary, Joseph and Jesus (they should be in place before verse three, “Angels and archangels may have gathered there”. Near the end of the hymn, the three wise men gather at the baptismal font, and Herod makes his way to the balcony.)*

**Narrator:** After Jesus was born, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

**Wise Men:** (Together) “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have to pay him homage.”

**Narrator:** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened and all Jerusalem with him... Then Herod secretly called for the wise men, and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

**Herod:** “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

**Narrator:** When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

**Hymn:** We Three Kings (verses 1-3.) *A large star appears among the other stars in the backdrop. The verses are sung solo by each of the three wise men as they process down the aisle with their gift; the congregation comes in for the refrain.*

**Narrator:** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. *(The Narrator pauses while the Wise men offer their gifts before the Christ child. After offering gifts, they kneel or stand off to the side so as not to block the view of the baby.)*

**Narrator:** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1: 14-17)

**Hymn:** Of the Father’s Love Begotten (verses 1-4).

*During the hymn, the house lights are dimmed and candles are lit. The cast remain in place.*

**Hymn:** O Come All Ye Faithful.

*During the hymn, the cast processes out in this order: Mary & Joseph, Angel Gabriel & other angels, animals, shepherds, Wise Men.*