



2020 Sunday School Online Christmas Program, St. John Lutheran Church
Facebook Watch Party: December 20, 2020 at 7pm

Welcome and Gathering

Prelude Music

Welcome and Prayer: Pastor Robin

GATHERING SONGS

INVITATION: Pastor Robin

HYMN: O Come All Ye Faithful

OPENING SOLO, *There Was Love*

(Isabel) Soloist: Ellen accompaniment

(Bella) Narrator #1

In the beginning, before anything had ever been made, he was there with God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. A light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

SCENE 1: The Message

Narrator #1 Bella

A long, long time ago, God gave the stars in the sky, the countless constellations, the sprawling Solar System. And among it a little planet called Earth. God made all of these things, and all of the people and animals of our planet. Just over two thousand years ago, when it was most needed, God gave another gift. God came down to be with us, to save us and show us how life can be lived.

Narrator #2 Ally

God could have chosen anywhere as home. God could have chosen to build a palace that would have made the Roman Empire seem like nothing. But God chose to give his Son to be born among the forgotten, the overlooked and the poorest. This is the story of God's greatest gift.

Narrator #1 Bella

The story opens with a young woman in her home. Her name was Mary. She was from a town called Nazareth, and she was engaged to be married to Joseph. Unless you look a bit deeper, there is nothing particularly important about Mary.

Narrator #2 Ally

But, to God, she was very important. So important that God sent the angel Gabriel down from heaven with a message for her.

Mary is sweeping. Joseph is lying down on a couch, bed, or floor with a blanket, stuffed animal, asleep.

Gabriel: *(loudly and excitedly, jumping into the screen)*

Greetings, Mary!

Mary: *(startled, Mary holds broom like a weapon toward Gabriel)*

Ahhh!

Gabriel:

You are very special! God is with you!

(Mary looks suspiciously at Gabriel like, “What are you talking about?”)

Gabriel: *(With hands up in the air)*

You are very special! God is with you!

Narrator #1:

But Mary found it hard to understand why the angel had come to see her. She was just an ordinary young woman.

Narrator #2:

She worried what the angel meant by the greeting. Seeing she was scared, the angel said to her...

Gabriel:

Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will give birth to a baby! You will call him Jesus! He will be called the SON OF THE MOST HIGH!

Mary:

I don't understand. I am not married yet! How can I have a son?

Gabriel:

The Holy Spirit will come and will give you a baby. People will call him the Son of God.

Mary:

(Puts the broom down, still holding it.)

I am a servant of God. I believe it will happen as you say.

Gabriel bows to Mary.

Mary turns to camera. Dreamily looking up at the heavens.

Off screen: Joseph snores, yawns loudly.

Narrator #2:

Joseph was a simple man – a carpenter. He was exhausted from working all day and worrying about the new baby that Mary was going to have.

Narrator #1:

He was not so sure he wanted to marry Mary anymore! So, Gabriel had to tell him who this baby was and how important it was for them all to be together.

Joseph is lying down sleeping & snoring

Gabriel:

Joseph! Joseph!

Joseph stops snoring but is still sleeping.

Gabriel:

Don't be afraid to get married to Mary. Her child is from the Holy Spirit, and it's a boy! *(excited!!)*

Gabriel does a "happy dance" and makes music/sounds.

Marys looking toward Joseph.

Joseph:

Wakes up suddenly from Gabriel's loud noise. Stands up. Rubs eyes.
 What an UNFORGETTABLE DREAM!!!

Gabriel:

Oh yeah, one more thing, you are to name him Jesus because he will save God's people from their sins!!!!!!

{Gabriel smiles until the end of the scene; can still be doing a little dance}

Joseph

Exaggerated shrug to camera.

Gets up out of bed

Picks up blankie and teddy bear and puts over arm (like he's bringing it along on their trip)

Joseph looking up:

Hey Mary, are you ready for this?

Mary looking down towards Joseph:

Ready when you are!

HYMN: Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Scene 2: The Journey

THE DECREE - Koenig Family home video

Emperor's Emissary #1 Molly:

Emperor Augustus orders a census to be taken...

Emperor's Emissary #2 Bridget:

...throughout the Roman Empire.

Emperor's Emissary #3 Isabel:

Everyone must register themselves in their hometown.

ARRIVING IN BETHLEHEM - Egly Family home video

Townsperson #1 Kevin and Matt:

Joseph went from the town called Nazareth in Galilee...

Townsperson #2 Angela and Adam:

...to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David.

Townsperson #3 Chris and Grace:

He went to register with Mary...

Townsperson #4 Grace:

...who was promised to marry him.

Narrator #1:

When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph knocked on every door in the town.

Narrator #2:

They were looking for a place to stay, but everywhere was full of people.

Joseph:

We've traveled so far, our journey's been long,

Mary:

but now we're in Bethlehem where we belong!

Joseph:

I'm full of frustration!

Donkey with attitude:

Did you have a reservation??

Mary directly to camera,:

Can you help us, please, we've no place to stay.

NO ROOM AT THE INN: Specht Family home video

Innkeeper #1 Addison S. arms crossed, angry face, loudly:

There isn't room here!

Innkeeper #2 R.J. Specht loudly, pointing away:

You must go away!

Narrator #1:

At each inn, they were given the same answer. Lots of people came down to be counted, so the whole town was full.

Narrator #2:

There were so many families to accommodate. Mary and Joseph nearly gave up!

THE COW'S BRIGHT IDEA: Jones Family home video**Cow #1 Charlotte:**

We've got a place where you can all sleep.

Cow #2 Anthony and Donovan:

The stable is warm! The hay is so deep!

MAKING ROOM IN THE STABLE: Stevens Family home video**Cow #3 Jacob:**

It's clean and it's dry, with no sign of danger.

Cow #4 Rylie:

When your baby is born, he can rest in our manger!

NO ROOM AT THE INN, CONTINUED: Specht Family home video

Innkeepers look at one another, whisper in each others ears, then turn to face camera with a big nod up and down, "yes"!

Innkeeper #1 Addison S. nodding yes:

If it's okay with the animals...

Addison puts her arm around RJ

Innkeeper #2 R.J. S. nodding yes:

...it's okay with us!

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 3

Scene 3: The Stable

Narrator #1:

During the journey, Mary was nearly ready to give birth to her baby. Although tired and weary, they were grateful for somewhere for the baby to be born.

Narrator #2:

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary 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.

Scene: Barn

Mary is holding the baby and rocking him.

Joseph is smiling looking towards Mary.

Gabriel looks “down” at Mary & Joseph

Gabriel Smiling:

It's a boy!!

Joseph Proudly:

Jesus.

Mary puts baby into a “manger”

A Christmas Story Part 1: Leonhardt Family home video

Clop, clop, clop went the donkey's feet.
Clop, clop, clop down the stoney street.
Nod, nod, nod went Mary's head.
She was tired she needed a bed.

A Christmas Story Part 2: Shafer Family home video

Knock, knock, knock went Joseph at the door.
Do you have room for one more?
No, no, no the innkeeper said,
We don't even have one more bed.

A Christmas Story Part 3: Incaudo Family home video

Wait, wait, wait! The innkeeper said.
You can use my stable for a bed.
Sh, sh, sh, what is that I hear?
The cry of baby Jesus oh so dear.

Narrator #1:

The angel said Jesus would be called Son of the Most High. This was a very difficult place to bring a baby into the world. I'm not sure if this was what they expected. But as Mary looked at the sleeping baby in the manger, she knew that he was a precious gift.

Narrator #2:

Meanwhile, in some fields nearby, a group of sheep were grazing.

Scene 4: The Fields

HUNGRY SHEEP: Dwyer Family (sheep) home ideo

We eat...eat...eat and we sleep sleep sleep

We live on the hills because we are fine sheep.

STRONG SHEPHERDS: Legault Family home video

Shepherds Riley and Matt:

We are gentle, kind, shepherds keeping sheep safe at night
if there is a wolf, we will fight fight fight!

Sheep Chase, Bennett, Laura:

Our wool is curly and our ears are small
and we have no tails at all all all

HYMN: The First Noel

Narrator #1:

A group of shepherds were keeping watch over the sheep. It was night-time, and they had a long day in the hills. So, they laid down their heads to rest.

Narrator #2:

They were surprised—to say the least—to see an angel of the Lord appear in front of them. The glory of the Lord shone all around the shepherds—and they were terrified!

Narrator #1:

You see, these shepherds were just ordinary people going about their daily lives. They weren't considered very important.

Narrator #2:

Nobody took much notice of them. So they were surprised when the angel spoke to them.

THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: FREMOUW FAMILY**Angel #1 Bree, Ally & Gina (together):**

Wake up! Wake up! There's no time to waste!

Shepherd #1 wakes up suddenly and looks alarmed! May have stuffed animal, blanket over shoulder like just woken up.

Shepherd #1 Arthur:

The baby is born?! Of course we'll make haste!

Narrator #2:

Well, if this wasn't enough for the humble shepherds to take in, the angel was soon joined by a huge group of angels.

Narrator #1

They are called the heavenly host. They said:

THE HEAVENLY HOST: Schlosser and Gurzinski families home video

ALL Angels - Lilith, Connor & Jen Schlosser; Kaylee, Zach, and Kimberly Gurzinski:

All Angels: Jumping up and down, excited and talking very loudly!
 Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth!

SHEPHERDS ARRIVAL: Aincham Family home video

Shepherd #2 Joe: *With groggy eyes and blanket over shoulder.*

What did awake me?! With fear I am shaking!

Angel #2 Grace:

Do not be afraid. We have news of great joy!

Shepherd #3 Heather:

Do you think we can see this new baby boy?!

All turn to face baby doll wrapped in cloth, in a box of some kind. Straw, burlap, etc. Barn animal stuffed animals...

ALL Angels Kelsey, Bella, Grace:

Look at him there, asleep in the hay.

ALL Shepherds Joe, Heather:

Let us give thanks as we kneel here and pray.

All kneel to face baby.

Scene 5: The Visitors

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

Narrator #1:

Sometime later more people came to visit. But they didn't come straight to the stable. These three important people—sometimes called Kings, sometimes Wise Men—were Magi.

Narrator #2:

'Magi' is the same word we use when we say 'magic'. And these were very clever people, who knew all the secrets of the stars. They knew from examining the heavens that an important event was taking place. A bright star rose in the sky.

Star #1 Addison R.:

May all who are looking find peace everlasting.

Star #2 Skyler M.:

The star brightly gleaming shows God is now living.

Star #3 Manny H.:

The baby who's born and now breathes among us,...

Star #4 Arden B.:

...is God's greatest gift to the world all around us!

Magi #1 Sage Q.: *(looking up and pointing)*

Look at that star, it can mean only one thing!

Star #5 Cosette H.:

The baby is born!

Star #6 Jordan H.:

He is the King!

Magi #2 Jocelyn H.: *(holding a brightly wrapped gift)*

We'll take him some presents—a sight to behold!

Magi #3 Emma B.: *(holding a brightly wrapped gift)*

We'll take him some frankincense, myrrh, and some gold.

Narrator #1:

And they followed it to worship the person whose birth it foretold. They knew that the star heralded the King of the Jews. And where would a king be born? Yes, they went straight to the palace! But they didn't find him there.

Narrator #2: Then they saw the bright star ahead of them again and followed it until it stopped. The Magi saw the child and they worshipped him. Each of them brought their special gift to give to the baby Jesus.

Narrator #1: And that's why we give gifts at Christmas. Because we have been given a miraculous gift. And every year, people re-tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Narrator #2:

This story reveals something very special about God—that he loved us so much he came to live among us.

Pastor Robin

Sending song: "Go Tell it On the Mountain"