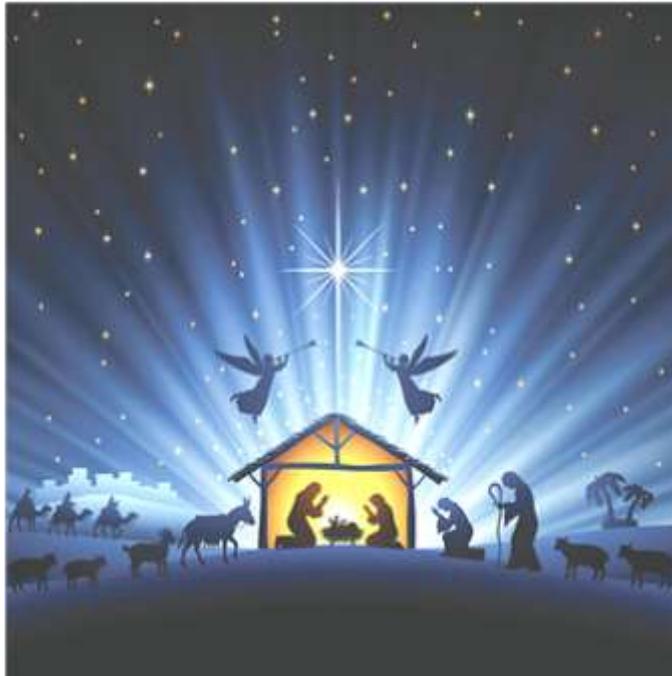


# A Simple Pageantry

Compiled by Glenn A. Hascall



## Characters

Narrator	Jacob Runkle	Shepherd	Jared Runkle
Mary	Bailey Schoenhard	Angel	Tena Rackow
Joseph	Nakoah Cornwell		

Narrator, Jacob: Emperor Augustus once gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed.

Congregation Sings: **“O Little Town of Bethlehem** ELW #279

Narrator, Jacob: So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago, Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he **was from David's family. Mary was engaged to Joseph and** traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while she was there, she gave birth to her first born son. She dressed him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

Congregation Sings: **“What Child is This?”** ELW #296

Narrator, Jacob: That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep.  
All at once, an angel came down to them from the Lord, and **the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel said...**

Angel, Tena: **Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is because you will find him in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

Narrator, Jacob: Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and **joined in praising God. Mary said...**

Mary, Bailey: Praise God in Heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.

Congregation Sings: **“God Tell it on the Mountain”**

ELW #290

Narrator, Jacob: After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other...

Shepherd Jared: Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us.

Congregation Sings: **“There's a Song in the Air”**

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
2. There's a tu - mult of joy O'er the won - der - ful birth,  
3. In the light of that star Lie the a - ges im - pearled;  
4. We re - joice in the light And we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer And a ba - by's low cry!  
For the vir - gin's sweet boy Is the Lord of the earth.  
And that song from a - far night Has swept o - ver the world.  
That comes down through the From the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
Ev - 'ry hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing,  
Ay! we shout to the love - ly \*e - van - gel they bring,

For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
In the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!  
And we greet in His cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

\* Good news. (segue)



Narrator, Jacob: They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying in a manger. When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said. Everyone listened and was surprised. But, Mary kept thinking about all of this and wondered what it meant.

As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

Congregation Sings: **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** ELW #283

Narrator, Jacob: And all these centuries later we retell this wonderful story of when God came to us as a baby. We tell the stories of angels and shepherds, wise men, a stable, a manger, and Mary. And this simple retelling will ring as true in your hearts as it did the first time—for the message does not change—but the message continues to change hearts.

We wish each and every one of you the peace of Christmas lived as God had planned—one that is full of discovery and yet has no fear. One that sees a baby born in a humble stable as the King of Kings.

Congregation Sings: **“Joy to the World”** ELW #267  
Verses 1 & 2

