A Children’s Christmas Pageant of Scripture and Carols

Deac. Mary J. Moerbe

*This is designed for a very small group of children. If you have more than we do, which I hope you do, then simply assign the children’s readings as pairs or triplets, highlighting which verses are assigned for each child. We currently have two readers and two pre-readers.*

Introduction, if necessary, by the pastor

Children:

**In the Name of the Father** (1 finger)

**And of the Son** (2 finger cross)

**And of the Holy Spirit** (3 finger, splash toward face\*).

**Amen.**

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the first chapter:

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
    and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Children sing “Savior of the Nations Come”, stanza 1

**Savior of the nations, come,**

**Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!**

**Marvel now, O Heav’n and earth,**

**That the Lord chose such a birth.**

Child A:

The Birth of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of Luke, the second chapter:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when [Qu-I-ree-nee-us] was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town 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 registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Children sing “Away in a Manger,” Stanza 1

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Child B:

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
    and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Children sing part of the “Gloria in Excelsis”:

**Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,**

**We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory!**

Child C:

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Children sing “Away in a Manger,” Stanza 2

**2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Child D:

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

Children sing “Away in a Manger,” Stanza 3

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

Child A:

And all who heard [the Good News of Jesus] wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Children sing “In A Little Stable”

**1. In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.**

**2. A bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.**

**3. Shepherds stood around Him,
Angels watched with care,
For this Babe was Jesus,
Lying, smiling there.**

**4. Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then.
For He surely loves me,
Little though I am.**

Pastor: The final reading is from the Gospel of John, the first chapter.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Children sing the Doxology (*LSB* 805):

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Maybe this gesture means something—I don’t actually know. It just reminded my kids of the Holy Spirit and baptism so I went with it. ☺