

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Christmas Eve Pageant



Participants:

Sheep Vocals: Keith Rameshwar

InnKeeper: Glen Morgan

Mary: Karyn Thuss

Joseph: Jim Thuss

Shepherd: Alex Morgan

Wiseman: Ellie Morgan

Angels: Navaeh Hyde, Wills' children

Sheep: Clara Wills, Navaeh Hyde, Keith Rameshwar

Shepherds: Kathleen Hyde, Jamie, Nellie Wills, Lena Wills

Baby Jesus: Colton Wills

Readers: Carol and Ernie Reid

Patricia and Brian Courtis

Glenn Baskerville

Janet Patterson

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (VU Hymn 43)

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Read By: Nellie Wills

1: When life is messy and not going well,

2: remember that God is with you and come to worship.

1: When people are blaming you for something you haven't done,

2: remember that God is with you and come spend time in God's community.

1: When you step in the muck or hit your thumb with a hammer,

2: take a deep breath and remember that God is with you.

1: Come find comfort today in this gathering of God's people.

All: We know that God is with us. That's why we're here to worship.

Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel VU 1

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them!
That trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows pit to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be for us the Prince of Peace. Refrain

Lighting the Advent Wreath Ernie and Carol Reid

We light the first candle reminding us of the way of hope
We light the second candle reminding us of Christ path of peace
We light the third candle reminding us of spirit filled joy
We light the fourth candle reminding us of God's self giving love
We light this Christ candle for the arrival of Emmanuel
God with us

Join us in Singing a Candle is Burning

We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim
O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Prayer of the Day Lena Wills

Compassionate God,
sometimes life is messy.
Sometimes we feel frightened, angry, confused,
excited or frustrated, happy or sad,
delighted or nervous,
and sometimes just discombobulated.
Sometimes we don't know what to feel.
Give us a sign that it won't last forever.
Remind us that a feeling is just a temporary thing,
but you are always there for us, no matter what we are feeling,
no matter how messy life gets.
You are our God, and we are not alone.
Thanks be to you, forever and ever. Amen.

Solo Ellie Morgan : Hallejuah

Hymn Joy to the World" (VU 59)

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Scripture: Luke 1:26–38 Reader: Patricia Courtis

It was the sixth month of the year, when the angel Gabriel came to visit a young woman named Mary. Mary lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee.

She was engaged to a man named Joseph.

The angel said to Mary, "Greetings, beautiful Mary. God is with you."

But Mary was confused. "Who was this? Why was he saying these things to her?"

The angel continued, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has chosen you to do something special.

You are going to have a baby, and it will be God's child.

You will name him, Jesus, which means 'God saves us.'

This baby of yours will be a great person.

He will be called the Son of God.

He will be the ruler of his people forever and ever."

Mary was still confused. "How can this be? I'm not yet married."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. This will be God's holy child.

Nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary nodded and said, "Here I am. I'm ready. Let it be just as you say."

Then the angel left.

Mary's Monologue Mary Played by Kayrn Thuss

Hymn "Hope is a Star" (VU 7)

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Savior is born. (Refrain)

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. (Refrain)

4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. (Refrain)

[Refrain:]

When God is a child
there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first
and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25 Reader: Brian Courtis

This is how the birth of Jesus happened.
Mary and Joseph were engaged but they were not yet married.
Mary told Joseph that she was pregnant with God's child.
Joseph was a good man and he didn't want to hurt Mary.
But he was also confused and upset.
Then an angel came to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.
Her baby is God's child. It's true.
When her son is born, name him Jesus.
He will also be called 'Emmanuel.' That means 'God is with us.'"
When Joseph woke up from his dream, he welcomed Mary into his home.
Then, when her baby was born, he named him Jesus.
Joseph enters, leaning on his staff.

Joseph's Monologue: Joseph Played by Jim Thuss

Solo Natalie Thuss: **O Holy Night**

Scripture: Luke 2:8–16

Near Bethlehem, there were shepherds living in the fields.
They kept guard over their flocks of sheep each night.
Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared before them.
The shepherds were afraid,
but the angel said,
"Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news, joyful news.
Today in Bethlehem the Saviour has been born.
Go and find the baby lying in a manger."
Suddenly the sky was filled with angels who sang:
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to everyone on earth."
When the angels had left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.
They found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the manger.

When the shepherds left the stable, they began to tell everyone about Jesus' birth.
They shouted out praise to God as they returned to the fields.
Mary listened carefully and watched carefully.
She wanted to remember everything that happened that night.
And Mary treasured all of this in her heart.
A group of shepherds walks, talking excitedly about going to
Bethlehem, needing to find the baby. One stops as others
continue down the aisle.

Shepherd's Monologue: Played by Alex Morgan

Hymn "O Come All You Faithful" VU 60

1 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:

[Refrain:]
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God of God,
light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb,
very God, begotten, not created: [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:

4 See, how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12 Reader: Glenn Baskerville

King Herod was king in Jerusalem when Jesus was born.
Three wise travellers from the East came looking for the baby.
They were following a star.
They asked King Herod to help them find the baby.
"Where is the child who has been born, the one who will be the new king?
We saw his star in the east and we have come to worship him."
When King Herod heard this, he was frightened.
He called together his priests and scribes and asked where the child would be born.
Then Herod gave the wise travellers directions to Bethlehem.
He said to them, "Go, find the child, and when you find him, let me know where he is.
I want to worship him, too."
Then the wise ones set off again.
They followed the star to Bethlehem.
The star stopped over a house.
The Wise Ones went in and found the baby and his mother.
They knelt down and worshipped Jesus.
Then they gave three gifts to the baby: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
A message came to them in a dream.
They were told that King Herod wanted to kill the baby.
So they didn't go back to Herod.
They went home another way.

Wise One's Monologue: Wise One Played by Glen Morgan

Hymn "What Child Is This?" (VU 74)

1 What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

[Refrain:]

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]

Scripture: Luke 2:1–7 Read by Ernie Reid

In those days an order went out from Emperor Augustus.
He said that all the world should pay taxes.
Everyone went to their own hometowns to pay the tax.
Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee
to the city of Bethlehem because that was the place where
his grandparents came from. He was engaged to Mary, and Mary was expecting a child. So, they travelled
together to Bethlehem.
When they got there, it was time for the baby to be born.
Mary gave birth to her first son.
She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger
because there was no room in the inn.

Innkeeper's Monologue: InnKeeper: Played by Glen Morgan

Solo "Away in a Manger," by Nevaeh Hyde

Hymn "Away in a Manger" (VU 69)

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.

Offering

1: Our offering is the way we say "Thanks" to God for the gift of Jesus. With our gifts, we offer our gratitude that God-is-with-us; we are not alone.

2: With these gifts, we are able, as a congregation, to share the good news with others. Through these gifts, we can help others know that God is with them; they are not alone.

1: As we sing this hymn, let us present our gifts.

Offering Hymn "Jesus, Our Brother Kind and Good" (VU 56)

1 Jesus our brother, kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

2 "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother uphill and down.
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.
I," said the donkey shaggy and brown.

3 "I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed.
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.
I," said the cow all white and red.

4 "I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm.
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.
I," said the sheep with curly horn.

5 "I," said the dove from rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep, so he should not cry.
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I.
I," said the dove from rafters high.

6 Thus every beast by some good spell,
in the stable dark was glad to tell
of the gift he gave Emmanuel,
the gift he gave Emmanuel.

Prayers of the People Readers: Glenn Baskerville and Janet Patterson

1: Loving God, we are here to celebrate and to receive the story of the birth of Jesus. Yet, even as we celebrate, we know that there are many in need here and around the world.

We think of those who won't be with family or friends for Christmas, those who are sad and grieving for a loved one, and all who are facing struggles and challenges of many kinds.

And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

1: We think of the victims of the building collapse in London and the men that lost their lives
And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

2: We think of all the people who fight for human rights and dignity around the world
And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

1: We pray for the earth, and especially for the polar bears and other animals who are feeling the effects of climate change. May we, the people of the earth, find a path to heal the damage to our climate and to our earth.
And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

2: We pray for all animals, for wolverines, koalas, red pandas, and all the wonderful creatures you have made,
O God.

And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

1: We think of all who are sick today and all who are grieving.
We think of those who don't have homes in which to live,
and those who aren't safe from abuse and violence at home.
We think of those who are lonely and those who are being bullied.
And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

2: We think of those who are experiencing so many emotions this Christmas, especially those who are not feeling merry or joyous.

And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

1: We think of all women who are pregnant and all couples who are expecting a baby.
We know they have worries as well as excitement.
And so we pray...

All: May all the world know your love and peace, O God.

2: We can have so many different memories and emotions at Christmas.

Like those there at the first Christmas, we can be happy, sad, joyful, angry, peaceful, and frustrated.

Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Ones, and the innkeeper all discovered you were with them.

They found your peace when Jesus was born.

In the same way, may we here

and people everywhere

find peace in knowing that you are with us, today and always.

For Jesus came as Emmanuel, God-with-us.

For this we give thanks

Solo Ellie Morgan:

Responding to God's Word: Tabitha Carey

Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (VU 35)

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and ass before him bow,

and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss:

Joy! Joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door,

and we are blest for evermore.

Christ was born for this!

Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye need not fear the grave:

Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

Commissioning and Benediction

1: Go, make sure that you help create a world

where everyone has full stomachs and a safe place to sleep.

2: Go, make sure that everyone knows that God's love is with them, no matter what mess they are in.

1: And remember!

2: God's love is big love.

God's arms can hold everyone in the world.

God's heart keeps our hearts warm with compassion.

Sheep come to stage once more and say,

Baa! God is with you! You are not alone! No matter how messy it gets!

Hymn: Chorus (VU 43) (repeat several times)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

