

ST. PAULS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SCRIPT 2024
THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Last edited 12/21/24

CAST

Angel Gabriel

Angel 1

Angel 2

Angel 3

Angel 4

Angel 5

Angel 6

Angel of Music

Angel with Star

Little Angel 1

Little Angel 2

Mary

Joseph

Innkeeper

Roman Soldiers (*then shepherds*)

Wiseperson 1

Wiseperson 2

Wiseperson 3

Donkey

Camel

Shephard 1

Shephard 2

Shephard 3

Shepherds

Angels

Animals

(FULL CAST enters and stands in aisles. Angels take their places. ANGEL 6 runs down center.)

ANGEL 6

St Paul's! St Paul's! For unto you a Christmas Story is told by the Children of St Paul's. Come on, let's go! *(Music starts. All children run in.)*

HYMN #1: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

(instrumental only for first 2 rounds, sing first verse in final round.)

ANGEL GABRIEL

Hail! Hail! Hail!

ANGEL 1

Are you trying to get a cab?

ANGEL GABRIEL

No, I'm practicing. I have great news to deliver to everyone on Earth, and I don't want to get it wrong.

ANGEL OF MUSIC

That's why we sing O Come All Ye Faithful! So that we can help you share the great news!

ANGEL 2

What's the news?

ANGEL GABRIEL

A baby will be born in Bethlehem, and his name will be Jesus. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin, and give them life everlasting.

ANGEL 3

Didn't that already happen? Like, a long time ago?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Yes, and it's about to happen again! But I need many people to help tell the story so that we can all share in the miracle. *(looks around at the cast and the church)* Will you help me?

ENTIRE CAST

Yes!

ANGEL 6

St Paul's, will you help us? *(looks around waiting for an answer)*

CONGREGATION

Yes!

(ANGEL 3 steps forward. Directs attention towards GABRIEL)

ANGEL 3

The first thing that happens is that YOU need to appear to Mary!

ANGEL GABRIEL

Yes! I am off. I don't want to be late!

ANGEL 6

Places!

(ANGEL GABRIEL moves to a different location - MARY enters; Rest of cast exits and goes to next entrance)

ANGEL 1

In a town called Nazareth there lived a woman named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph.

ANGEL 2

God sent the Angel Gabriel to visit her, and first she was afraid. But the angel said:

ANGEL GABRIEL

Hail, Mary! God is with you!

MARY

Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Well in *your* case, it means that you will have a baby, and he will be Christ the Lord.

MARY

But that's impossible!

ANGEL GABRIEL

Nothing is impossible with God. The baby will be a child of the Holy Spirit. He will be called the son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin, and give them life everlasting.

MARY

Does God really love me that much?

ANGEL GABRIEL

God loves all children, past, present, and future. But you are special, because you have been chosen to bring God's message to Earth.

MARY

If God wants me to do this, then that's what I'll do.

ANGEL 1

A few days later, the Angel Gabriel visited Joseph in a dream. *(Enter JOSEPH)*

ANGEL GABRIEL

Hail, Joseph! God is with you!

JOSEPH

Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Well in *your* case, it means that your fiancé Mary is going to have a baby. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin, and give them life everlasting.

JOSEPH

But that's impossible!

ANGEL GABRIEL

With God, nothing is impossible.

JOSEPH

Are you sure?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Trust me, I'm an angel.

(ANGEL GABRIEL moves aside. JOSEPH and MARY begin walking).

ANGEL 2

When Mary and Joseph were getting ready to have the baby, they learned they had to take a last-minute trip to Bethlehem.

ANGEL 3

The soldiers of Rome approached the people of Nazareth.

(SOLDIERS ENTER)

ALL SOLDIERS

Make way! Make way! Bow down! Bow down!

ANGEL 1

As decreed by Caesar, the soldiers told all the people they must return to their original place of birth.

ALL SOLDIERS

Census!!!!

(SOLDIERS exit and change into SHEPHERD costumes, to be shepherds at the end scene)

ANGEL 2

Joseph and Mary started on their journey.

ANGEL 3

They traveled on a donkey (DONKEY enters and walks with JOSEPH and MARY) because Mary got tired of nobody offering her a seat on the bus.

DONKEY

I may be a "small one," but I will carry you all the way!

LITTLE ANGEL 1

I don't think that's in the story.

ANGEL 3

Who's telling it, you or me?

LITTLE ANGEL 1

We ALL are!

LITTLE ANGEL 2

Yea, we ALL are!

Little Angel 1 and 2 link arms.

ANGEL 3

You're right...My bad.

ANGEL 1

By the time they got to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were very tired.

JOSEPH

We are very tired!

MARY

Look, a hotel! We can stay there!

(The Inn Keeper hangs up a "No Vacancy" sign.)

JOSEPH

Don't worry. I'm sure the angel will appear and tell us what to do.

(Pause. They look around. Gabriel doesn't appear.)

MARY

What are we going to do?

ANGEL 2

An old innkeeper saw Mary and Joseph looking really stressed out.

INNKEEPER

(to MARY and JOSEPH) It isn't much, but I have a stable. You'll have to sleep on straw and share the space with all the animals.

MARY

I am so very tired.

JOSEPH

Then we shall stay in the stable.

ANGEL 1

Mary had the baby in the barn, because the local hospital didn't take her health insurance.

(ANGEL WITH THE STAR enters and shines bright in the sky)

ANGEL WITH STAR

The animals gathered around the baby, and everyone knew right away how special he was.

ANGEL OF MUSIC

All those near and far: let us join together and sing a song that reminds us how the greatest of kings was born in the humblest of places.

HYMN #2: AWAY IN A MANGER

(All the ANIMALS proceed to the stable and surround the manger. After first verse is finished, the animals all say their own sound in the microphone. Music fades when animals are finished.)

ANGEL 2

Meanwhile, the angel appeared to a group of shepherds, who were staying up late to guard their sheep.

(ANGEL GABRIEL steps forward.)

ANGEL GABRIEL

Hail Shepherds! God is with you.

(The SHEPHERDS step forward.)

ALL SHEPHERDS

Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Well in *your* case, it means that over in Bethlehem, a baby has been born, whose name is Jesus. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin, and give them life everlasting.

SHEPHERD 1

That's amazing!

SHEPHERD 2

Where can we find him?

SHEPHERD 3

We must go see him!

ANGEL GABRIEL

Go that way and look for the baby in the barn.

ANGEL WITH STAR

And suddenly the angel was joined by a whole bunch of angels, and they guided the shepherds to the manger, while singing was heard throughout the land!

ANGEL OF MUSIC

Let us join with all the angels, as we sing and celebrate the glory of our newborn king!

HYMN #3: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING *(sing first verse for first round, then fade out)*
(As the song is being sung, the SHEPHERDS take a place where all can see. The ANGELS surround the stable from on high.)

ANGEL 1

And so the shepherds and Mary and Joseph and the angels and all the animals squeezed into the barn to celebrate Jesus' birth. And there was great rejoicing in all the—

ANGEL WITH STAR

Wait! It feels like somebody's missing.

LITTLE ANGEL 1

I don't think you can fit anybody else.

LITTLE ANGEL 2

Yea, even the Innkeeper didn't have any rooms!

ANGEL 4

No, I'm sure there was somebody else we were supposed to tell!

ANGEL OF MUSIC

Come on! You have to remember! We wrote a WHOLE song about them!

ANGEL 5

(The ANGEL goes into the pews and consults a Bible.) Oh of course! The three wisepeople! I guess they'll just have to be a little late.

ANGEL OF MUSIC

It will be worth it, so we can sing their awesome song!

HYMN #4: WE THREE KINGS

(Everyone sings the first verse. Then music fades once WISEPEOPLE are in place.)

ANGEL 2

So Angel Gabriel went East to a faraway country and appeared to the three wisepeople

ANGEL GABRIEL

Hail, wisepeople! God is with you!

WISEPEOPLE

Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Well, in your case, it means that a new star will appear in the sky.

(The ANGEL WITH STAR travels to where the WISEPEOPLE are.)

ANGEL GABRIEL

Follow that star until it stops, and there you find the Baby Jesus. He will be called the Son of God and the Prince of Peace. He will teach people how to love each other, save them from sin, and give them life everlasting.

WISEPERSON 1

Let us go now and see this baby!

WISEPERSON 2

Wait! We should bring presents.

WISEPERSON 3

Good idea! Let's bring him gold!

WISEPERSON 1

And frankincense and myrrh!

WISEPERSON 2

What are frankincense and myrrh?

WISEPERSON 3

Things that smell really good!

(The 3 WISEPEOPLE follow the STAR to the stable)

ANGEL 1

So the wisepeople came, and they brought Jesus gifts of gold, and also frankincense, and myrrh, which are things that smell really good.

ANGEL WITH STAR

And the wisepeople gathered around the manger, completing a picture that will forever be in our minds and hearts.

ANGEL OF MUSIC

While the night seemed dark and cold, the presence of a warm star and a truly immortal song could be heard throughout the land.

HYMN #5: SILENT NIGHT *(Entire cast sings first verse with sign language)*

ANGEL 4

I think that's the end of the story, right?

ANGEL 5

The end? That's just the beginning! We have to share the good news with everyone in the world!

ANGEL 3

But that's impossible!

LITTLE ANGELS 1 and 2 (*together*)

With God, nothing is impossible.

ANGEL 4

Where do you even start?

ANGEL 2

The story is over two thousand years old. It is told year after year, and we have started again today. Keep telling the story.

ANGEL 1

So the Angel Gabriel appeared in the great town of Cary to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

ANGEL GABRIEL

Hail, St. Pauls! God is with you!

ANGEL 6 (*to the congregation*)

This is your turn!! "Wow! What does that mean?"

EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH

Wow! What does that mean?

ANGEL GABRIEL

Well, in *your* case, it means that I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. For to you is born this day a savior, who is Christ the Lord. Spread the good news, today and every day – Jesus is born!

ANGEL 6

Come on, friends! It's just the beginning!

(ALL CAST MOVE TO FINAL POSITION TO SING THE FIRST VERSE OF THE SONG.)

HYMN #6: JOY TO THE WORLD

END OF PLAY.