

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - 1966

Program opens with Hymn # 12 - "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" - ALL

Narrator: Christmas is indeed a joyous time; Christians the world over rejoice each year as they celebrate again and again the birth of our Lord, and as they renew the story of the First Christmas - for to Christians, the birth of our Savior is the most glorious event to take place in this world.

Among our modern celebrations at Christmas are many traditions that seem to have no direct bearing on the First Christmas. One of these is the trimming of our Christmas trees, but I believe there is a message there if we stop to listen for it, for as we add each object to our tree the message of the First Christmas will ring loudly in our ears. Let us listen as we trim our Christmas tree - and see if we can hear the old, old story retelling itself more beautifully than ever before.

"O Tannenbaum" Guitar accompaniment

J. Chow
The STAR is always placed at the top of our tree, and as we place it there, we remember the star that shone the night that Jesus was born. (Place star)

1st READER: (Matthew 2, Verses 1,2,7,9,10)

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Then Herod when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. when they had heard the king, they departed, and, lo the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. "

"Hymn # 47 - What Star is This?"

s Narrator: As we place the Candy Canes on our tree, we are reminded of those shepherds who watched their flocks on the Galilean hills the night that the star shone down. (Place Canes on tree)

2nd READER: (Luke 2, Verses 8,9,10,15,16,17,18)

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see

this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Hymn # 30 "The First Noel"

Narrator: The tinsel, icicles, and shiny objects that we place on our Christmas tree symbolize the gold and riches that were brought to the Christ child and make us ever conscious of the gifts that we, too, should lay at His feet. (Place icicles and tinsel on tree)

3rd Reader: (Matthew 2, Verses 10, 11, 12)

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."

Hymn # 51 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Narrator: On our tree we place the angels who proclaimed the wonderful message of peace on earth, goodwill toward men. ~~These~~ These angels keep us from forgetting the message which means so much to us now, 2,000 years after the first angel sang it. (Place angels on tree)

4th Reader: (Luke 2, Verses 9,10,13,14)

"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 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, good will toward men."

Hymn # 19 "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

Narrator: We add to our Christmas tree the symbol of the Light of the world. As the whole world was changed by the coming of Jesus, so our tree is changed to lighten the room about it. Nothing that we have added has so brightened and magnified its loveliness. (Turn on lights as narrator finishes.)

5th Reader: (Luke 2, verse 7 - John 1, verse 4).

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Hymn # 21 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

5th Narrator: As we place these shining COLORED BALLS on our tree, we are reminded of the world and its peoples, and are accepting a great challenge to give them the message of JESUS CHRIST. Just as we have here many colored balls, so do we have many colors of man in the world - black, brown, red, yellow, white - ALL must be given the opportunity to hear the Christmas Story. It is a story of truth and sweetness, of peace and light. (Place as many balls as necessary while narrator continues)

As we have been decorating our Christmas tree, the story of Jesus' birth has come back to us, and we have re-lived that glorious night. The story is ours, but not to keep - it is a message that we must pass on to the whole world, but we here can help by living it in our daily lives.

Tableau in Place - 1st 2 Verses - Congregation

Message - Hymn # 319 "Joy to the World"

We wish you a Merry Christmas - Church School