

## The Nativity

### **Narrator:**

Welcome to our parish's Christmas Nativity pageant where we will retell the story of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Scene 1 – Mary is kneeling down and praying when the Angel Gabriel appears before her.*

**Hymn #1: Your Announcement this Day, O Lord.**

*Syriac: ehnono noohro shareero*

Your announcement this day, O Lord,  
makes the universe rejoice.  
Hear the Church and her children sing  
praises as they shout with joy.  
For today a messenger,  
sent down from the Father's house,  
brings the Virgin joyful news:  
"Christ will dawn from your pure womb.  
Adam's children he will save."

### **Narrator:**

God sent his angel, Gabriel, to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph who was a descendant of King David. The girl's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said:

**Gabriel:** Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!

### **Narrator:**

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her:

**Gabriel:** Do not be afraid. God has chosen you to give birth to His Son and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and his kingdom will never end.

**Mary:** How can this be?

**Gabriel:** The Holy Spirit will come upon you.

**Mary:** I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said.

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### Hymn #2

*Syriac: ramremain*

The announcement to Mary  
that she would conceive God's Son  
makes the Church ever joyful,  
and we sing our praise to God.

From the Father, an angel  
has been sent to earth this day  
to announce to the Virgin:  
"You will bear the One who saves."

"Here am I," said the Virgin,  
"servant of the Lord my God.  
Let it be as you told me,  
and I thank the Lord most high."

*Scene 2 – Joseph is sleeping on a cot when the Angel Gabriel appears to him.*

### **Narrator:**

When Joseph heard the news that Mary was going to have a baby, he decided he would break the engagement quietly. Then, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said:

**Gabriel:** Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived a son. You will name him Jesus.

- *Joseph wakes up as the angel leaves. He kneels at his bed and prays.*

### Hymn #3

*Syriac: soogheeto (ramsho)*

O Joseph, rise, doubt no longer,  
Mary carries Jesus, God's Word.  
and she remains still a virgin,  
yet the mother bearing God's Son.

Though angels fear to behold him,  
You will raise him like your own son.  
Since Mary is God's pure temple,  
You will serve him like a high priest.

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### Narrator:

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Everyone went to register, each to his own hometown. Joseph took Mary to the town of Bethlehem, in Judea, the birthplace of King David.

- *Joseph goes to Mary and together they walk to Bethlehem.*

### Hymn #4 O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

*Scene 3 – In Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary go to the Inn to ask for a room.*

### Narrator:

The journey was long and hard, and when Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem they looked for a place to stay for the night.

**Joseph:** Excuse me, sir. May we stay here for the night?

**Innkeeper #1:** *(shaking his head, NO)* Sorry, no room here.

**Joseph:** *(turns to next innkeeper)* Excuse me, sir. May we stay here for the night?

**Innkeeper #2:** *(shaking his head, NO)* Sorry, no room here.

**Joseph:** *(turns to next innkeeper)* Excuse me, sir. May we stay here for the night?

**Innkeeper #3:** *(shaking his head, NO)* There's no room here. The whole town is full tonight.

**Joseph:** But my wife is going to have a baby. She needs a place to rest.

**Innkeeper #3:** There is a stable not too far. You may rest there for the night.

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- *Mary and Joseph walk over to the stable.*

### **Narrator:**

So Mary and Joseph found shelter with the animals in their stable. They prepared a manger with warm hay, for it was in this Holy Night that the Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger.

### Hymn #5

*Syriac: soogheeto (safro)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God;  
only Son born of the Father.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord God;  
only Son who dawned from Mary.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God;  
though once hidden, is revealed now.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord God;  
who in flesh dawned on creation.

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**Scene 4** – *Field with shepherds tending their sheep.*

**Narrator:**

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the field taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and said:

**Angel #1:** Do not be afraid, for behold, we bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.

**Angel #2:** This day a Savior has been born to you. You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

**Shepherd #1:** Let us go to see what these angels have told us!

**Shepherd #2:** Yes, we have been blessed with such news!

**Narrator:**

Suddenly, there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.

- *The shepherds go to the stable and kneel before the manger.*

**Hymn #6**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and good hope to all.

*al-maj-doo lee la-hee, fil a- 'a-lee  
wa 'a-lal ar-dee sa-lam,  
wa-ra-ja-oo Sa-leeH-(oo)  
lee-ba-nil ba-shar.*

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### *Scene 5 – The Three Kings.*

#### **Narrator:**

Soon after Jesus' birth, some wise men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked:

**King #1:** Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

**King #2:** We saw his star at its rising

**King #3:** We must go to worship Him.

#### **Narrator:**

They continued to follow the star and it led them to the place where the child lay.

- *The Kings travel to the stable, prostrate themselves before Jesus and present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

#### **Hymn #7 We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to the perfect light.

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*Scene 6 – All gathered around the Nativity.*

### **Narrator:**

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth. Amen

### Hymn #8 Qadeeshat

Qa-dee-shat a-lo-ho  
Qa-dee-shat ha-yel-to-no  
Qa-dee-shat lo-mo-yoo-to.

mshee-ho deh-tee-led men bat da-weed,  
it-ra-ham 'a-lain.

- *Everyone turns toward the audience and sings together.*

### Hymn #8 Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world 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.