



St. Andrew's Dune Church
12 Gin Lane | Southampton, NY 11969



Cover: *Adoration of the Shepherds* by Matthias Stomer

Children's
Pageant and Carols

December 24, 2023

The 800th anniversary of the first Christmas Pageant
In Greccio, Italy conducted by Saint Francis of Assisi

The 800th Anniversary of the Creche - The Christmas Pageant

Narrator 1 Once, along time ago, there were people who were very unhappy. They were called the people of Israel. They had been a nation with a king of their own. They had been beaten in many battles and now their land was not their own anymore.

Narrator 2 Up in the hills there was a little town called Nazareth. Here the people seemed like those in any other place. But there was one person who was different, a girl named Mary. One day when Mary was alone, a mysterious and wonderous thing happened. A shining angel appeared before her.

Gabriel Fear not Mary. I am Gabriel, the messenger of God. God sent me to tell you wonderful news. He is sending a child into the world and He has chosen you to be the little boy's mother.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Mary My heart is filled with joy that this will happen.

Gabriel People will call Him the Son of God. His name shall be Jesus. He will grow up to be a great man. People everywhere will love him.

Hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

This week marks the 800th anniversary of the first Christmas Creche or Nativity Scene in a living church exhibition or performance. In 1223 Saint Francis of Assisi Saint Francis was moved by his experiences traveling to the Holy Land and visiting the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This basilica is still today under the stewardship of the Franciscan order.

Francis, a deacon in the Roman Catholic, wanted to bring the Gospel message of the birth of Christ in the humility of a barn to life for his congregation. One of a deacon's primary responsibilities is to, "bring the needs of the poor to the church, and the church to the needs of the poor." Francis hoped that the worshippers, gathered together to worship the Christ Child would experience viscerally the image of the baby in that humble site and forever remember that the King of Kings was born in a stable.

Francis was visiting the town of Greccio to celebrate Christmas. Greccio was a small town built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass, so he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar.

As St. Bonaventure in his *Life of St. Francis of Assisi* put it:

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by him. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem.

May we never forget to see in our hearts the little Babe of Bethlehem, who came to save us from sin. We must never forget that the wood of the manger that held Him so securely would one day give way to the wood of the cross.

The Cast

George Earl
Edie Earl
Emily Edwards
Patrick Edwards
Veronica Edwards
Zinnia Edwards
Archie Ferrer
Hudson Ferrer
Josie Ferrer
Nico Ferrer
Eleanor Hobbs
Warren Hobbs
Charles Holme
Theodore Holme
Henry Holme
Lisel Magyar
Peter Magyar
Pippi Magyar
Alexander Oberbeck
Alina Oberbeck
Christina Oberbeck
George Plumondon
Billie Pool
Freddie Pool
Emma Tillotson
Lucy Tillotson
Billy Wallach
Stella Wallach

Narrator 4 King 1
 Narrator 3 & Child 1
 Angel 1
 Shepherd 1
 Narrator 2 & King 2
 King 3
 Shepherd 2
 Innkeeper
 Angel
 Narrator 7
 Angel 2
 Shepherd
 Sheep
 Sheep
 Baby Jesus
 Donkey
 Joseph
 Narrator 1 & Mary
 Ruben
 Child
 Child 3
 Narrator 6
 Child 5
 Sheep
 Angel 3
 Narrator 5 & Gabriel
 Child 2
 Child

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Narrator 3 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 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.

Joseph Here we are at last Mary. The journey has been hard for you, but we had to come.

Mary I know Joseph. Our good little donkey made the trip easy for me. He helped us arrive safely.

Joseph Look! There is an Inn. Perhaps they will have room for us. Open, kind Inn keeper. We need a place to spend the night.

Innkeeper My Inn is full. All of the sons of the City of David are here in Bethlehem tonight. But I do have a small stable. It's only for animals and not very comfortable for people but you could rest there for a few hours.

Joseph Oh thank you kind sir. Mary, the only shelter we can find is a stable in back of the Inn. Cattle are kept there.

Mary I shall not mind Joseph. I like the smell of clean hay and our good donkey will keep us company.

Joseph (Turns, looks around, then speaks impressively) How still and peaceful it is. I've never seen the stars do bright. Bethlehem is beautiful tonight.

Hymn

Silent Night
Silent Night

(1st verse) Children sing
ALL sing 2nd and 3rd verse again

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Hymn *Away in the Manger*

Children



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 *3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Child 1 Our gift for you is a song.

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

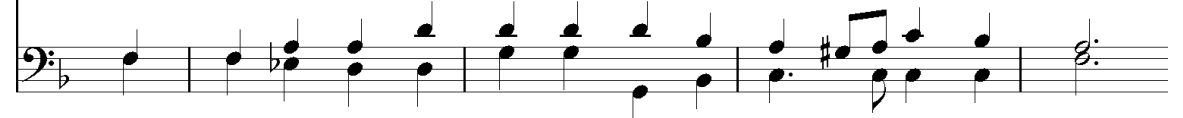
Congregation



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

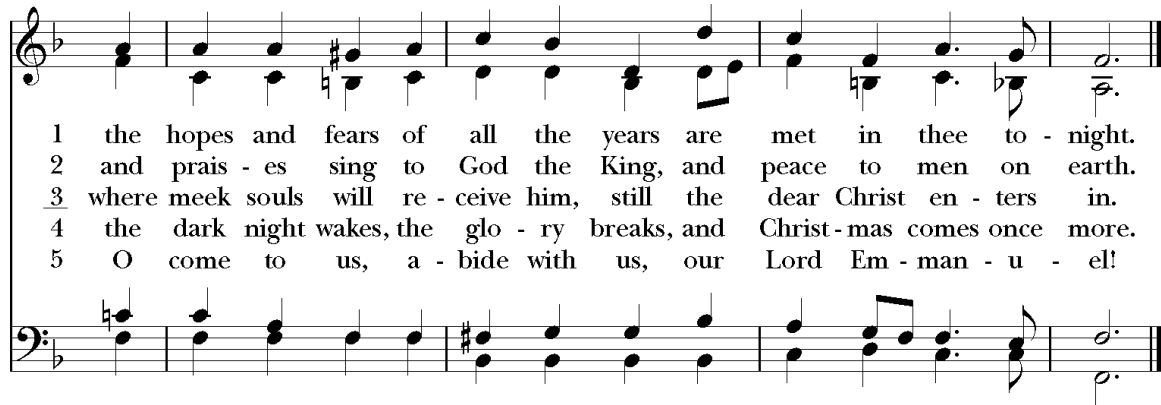


1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;





1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Narrator 4 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.

Shepherd 1 It's a strange night. The sky seems to flash with light and it is very cold, very cold.

Shepherd 2 Yes, it is bitter cold, but let us sleep here. This is a good place to spend the night by the hill.

Ruben Look, Grandfather, look! I have found a little lost lamb. See how beautiful and white he is...just as white as snow. May I keep him for my very own?

Shepherd 1 Let him keep the lamb. He is a fine son and will take good care of the little fellow.

Shepherd 2 I have a strange feeling. I feel that something wonderful is about to happen. Look at the sky. Never has it seemed so vast and mysterious.

Ruben The stars are so bright, especially that one shining in the East.

Shepherd 1 Come let us lie down and rest awhile.

Rueben Wake up! Wake up! Look a great light!!

Shepherd 2 What is this coming from the sky?

Child 5 I don't need any silk. Billie and I have no present for the baby.

Child 1 It doesn't need to be a big present, I'm only taking this cup I made

Child 5 But Freddie and I don't even have something like that to take.

Child 1 Let's hurray! You don't need a present!

Child 2 I want to give him these grapes I found.

Child 5 But we must have a present for the baby Jesus. It doesn't seem right to go without one.

Child 1 You could pretend that these flowers are from all of us. Oh let's just start for the village, Maybe we'll think of something on the way.

Child 5 WAIT! I've got an idea. Why don't we sing that song that I heard you singing the other day?

Child 2 You mean **Silent Night**?

Child 1 Yes, we could all sing our present.

Narrator 7 And, lo, the star, which they saw in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. And the shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the young babe lying in the manger

When the Wise Men saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding 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, and frankincense, and myrrh.

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
3 far as the curse is found, far
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy,
as the curse is found,
won - ders of his love,

Children's Scene

- Child 1** Have you seen the star?
- Child 2** Yes! It was so bright, I was awake all night.
- Child 3** That means the baby Jesus must be there. Look! I found some silk to deco-
rate our presents

Angel 1 Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be
to all people.

Angel 2 For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ
the Lord

Angel 3 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

All Angels Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Shepherd 3 An infant born in a manger! It is all so strange. Thus it was written in the
scriptures and thus it will come to pass. Let us gather together gifts and go
to Bethlehem to find this child Jesus.

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High* Congregation

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Narrator 5 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 unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a 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. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

1st King King Herod did tell us to find the young child, but I thought he acted very strangely.

2nd King That is because Herod does not want the child to be KING. If he finds him, he will kill him.

3rd King Last night God came to me in a dream. He said we must not go back to Herod and tell him about the Child. We **MUST** go home another way.

1st King It has been a long, hard journey, but that bright star in the East shows us we are almost there.

2nd King We must not doubt the star. We felt its coming even before it appeared in the sky.

3rd King We have rested enough. Come, let us follow the star to Bethlehem.

Hymn *Joy to the World* **Congregation**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The stanzas may be sung by three soloists: 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.

(Three Kings enter)

1st King This has been a long hard journey and I am tired. Let us sit here for a few moments and rest. Our poor camels too need to stop. They have been stumbling in the sand. If Herod spoke the truth, we cannot be far from where the Holy Child lies. From my country I bring him gold. It will surely delight him.

2nd King I bring him Frankincense. All the air around him will be sweet.

3rd King My gift to the Child is myrrh from the forest. It will fill the air with a wonderful fragrance fit for a King.

Hymn *The First Nowell*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
4 and there it did both stop and stay
5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.
 4 right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank-in-cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is-ra-el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

Alternative Refrain
Descant (others unison)

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is-ra-el.

Narrator 6 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea 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. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed.

Hymn	<i>We Three Kings</i>	Congregation
1	We three kings of O-ri-ent are,	bear-ing
2	Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain,	gold I
3	Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I:	in-cense
4	Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume	breathes a
5	Glo-rious now be-hold him a-rise,	King and
1	gifts we tra-verse a-far,	field and foun-tain,
2	bring to crown him a-gain,	King for ev-er,
3	owns a De-i-ty nigh;	prayer and prais-ing,
4	life of gath-er-ing gloom;	sor-rowing, sigh-ing,
5	God and Sac-ri-fice;	heaven sings al-le-

1 moor and moun-tain, fol-low-ing yon-der star.
 2 ceas-ing nev-er o-ver us all to reign.
 3 glad-ly rais-ing, wor-ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed-ing, dy-ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 5 lu-ia: al-le-lu-ia the earth re-plies.