

The Nativity

Cast of Characters

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Samuel the Lamanite
Angel Gabriel
Mary
Elisabeth
Joseph
Angel 2
Shepherd
Simeon
Anna

Primary Choir (angels, shepheds, etc.)
with optional handbells
Young Women Chorus, or small female vocal ensemble
Young Men Chorus, or small male vocal ensemble

Curtain Opens to PRIMARY CHOIR standing on risers, silently holding bells in position

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Christmas Bells are Ringing*
with Bells
4 bell chimes, then verse 2x

Enter SAMUEL THE LAMANITE

NARRATOR 1: And now it came to pass that ... there was one Samuel, a Lamanite, came into the land of Zarahemla, and began to preach unto the people...

SAMUEL: Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name....

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Samuel tells of baby Jesus*
Verse 1

PIANO continues as underscore, PRIMARY CHOIR hums, SAMUEL continues

SAMUEL: And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall believe on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life.

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Samuel tells of Baby Jesus*
Chorus only *Reprise*

Exit SAMUEL THE LAMANITE (RETURNS TO PRIMARY CHOIR)

NARRATOR 2: And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God...to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary.

Enter ANGEL GABRIEL and MARY

GABRIEL: Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. Thou shalt conceive...and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

MARY: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

Exit ANGEL GABRIEL (RETURNS TO PRIMARY CHOIR)

NARRATOR 2: And Mary...went...into a city of Juda; and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

Enter ELISABETH

NARRATOR 2: And when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.

ELISABETH: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the [child you will bear]! And whence is this to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the voice of your salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed.

MARY: My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low esteem of his handmaiden; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

MARY and ELISABETH exit (return to Primary Choir)

YOUNG WOMEN CHORUS: *What Child is this?*

NARRATOR 1: And the voice of the Lord came unto Nephi, the son of Nephi, saying: "Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets... And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given."

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Picture a Christmas*

Enter JOSEPH and MARY

NARRATOR 2: 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, in Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; ... to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

JOSEPH: And so it was, that, while [we] 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 [us] in the inns.

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Away in a Manger*
Primary choir verse 1
Small group of singers for v. 2 and v. 3, choir joining for 2-part chorus

Enter SHEPHERDS

PIANO begins underscore to The First Noel as NARRATOR 2 continues.

NARRATOR 2: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

CONGREGATION: *The First Noel*

Enter ANGEL

NARRATOR 2: 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.

ANGEL 2: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

NARRATOR 2: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and Saying:

ANGEL joins CHOIR

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Far, Far Away on Judea's Plain*
Chorus only, 1x

SHEPHERD: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

NARRATOR 2: 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 the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen.

SHEPHERDS remain and participate in singing Joy to the World

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Joy to the World*
(with optional string or woodwind accompaniment)

Enter SIMEON

NARRATOR 1: Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord, and to offer a sacrifice. And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and ... he was just and devout, and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus...he took he him up in his arms and blessed God.

SIMEON: Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace...for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel...that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Enter ANNA

NARRATOR 1: And there was one Anna, a prophetess... she was of a great age...and was a widow of about eighty-four years. She departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

ANNA: Thanks be to my God, who hath sent this baby to redeem all mankind. He shall redeem us from our sins and death and bring the light of everlasting life. Praise our merciful God!

PRIMARY CHOIR: *He Sent His Son*

NARRATOR 1: He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. ... He was the creator of the earth...Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He "went about doing good," yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and goodwill. He entreated all to follow His example. He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, the purpose of our life on earth, and the potential for the sons and daughters of God in the life to come.

NARRATOR 2: We testify that He will someday return to earth... He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him. Each of us will stand to be judged of Him, according to our works and the desires of our hearts.

YOUNG MEN CHORUS: *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

NARRATOR 1: We bear testimony...that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

PRIMARY CHOIR: *Silent Night*
With CONGREGATION verses 2 & 3

References: Luke 1, Luke 2, NIV Luke 1, Helaman 14, 3 Nephi 1, The Living Christ

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