

Christmas Play, St Peter's 2021

Helmut Linne von Berg: bell ringer and wiseman (will need to be in the gallery at 5 and 6 PM for bell ringing and then in Parish House with other wisemen)

Tucker Fisher: props and traffic director

Scene managers: Scene One, Jim Heimbach: Scenes Two and Three, Catherine Hicks: Scenes Four and Five, Jan Saylor

Larry Saylor: guitar (Meet at Heimbach house at 4:30PM)

Nancy Long: vocalist (Meet at Heimbach house at 4:30PM)

Elizabeth Heimbach: Torch bearer and leader of audience (Begin at Heimbach House 4:30PM on sidewalk in front of house)

Mary: Becky Fisher (Meet at Heimbach house at 4:30PM)

Joseph: Chris Fisher (Meet at Heimbach house at 4:30PM—Chris can go with Andrea and Becky to corner with pine tree when they leave Scene One and go to Scene Two)

Angel Gabriel: Andrea Pogue (Be at Heimbach house at 4:30PM)

Mike Newman: Reader of Scroll 1 (Be at the Heimbach House at 4:30PM—wear something Biblical looking)

Catherine Hicks: Reader of Scroll 2

Jim Heimbach: Reader of Scroll 3 (Heimbach house and then in church after directing Scene One—wear something Biblical looking)

Cleo Coleman: Reader of Scroll 4 (Be at Parish House at 4:30PM—wear something Biblical looking)

Innkeeper: Johnny Davis (Be at Parish House 4:30PM in innkeeper costume, then change into wiseman costume)

Angels: Jan Saylor, Linda Kramer, Mary Motley, Susan Linne von Berg, Marie Duke, Holly Davis, Katie Davis (Meet inside the church at 4:15—Costumes for young angels will be in the church)

Shepherds: Zeke Fisher, Dave Duke, Arthur Duke, Chester Duke, Hamilton Duke, Evan Davis, Dickinson boy (costumes for shepherds will be in the church)

(Meet inside the church at 4:15)

Baby Jesus: Walter Hicks (Be in parish house at 4:30PM)

Star carrier: Sydney Davis (Be in Parish House, 4:15)

Wisemen: Johnny Davis, Helmut Linne von Berg, Ken Pogue Meet in Parish House, 4:15PM— costumes will be in Catherine's study

Hospitality: Cookie Davis (In the Parish House)

Christmas Pageant Begins

Beforehand, Tucker Fisher will have put out lanterns along sidewalk, and through graveyard, gotten a fire going in the firepit. Set up of a table, and a chair on the right side of the pine tree, and on the left side of the pine tree, two chairs. Cardboard animals need to be in place in the church yard. At pavilion, hay bales, cardboard donkey, seating for Holy Family in place. Four boxes for the gifts that the wisemen will carry.) Shepherd crooks.

5 PM (and then again at 6PM) Bell at St Peter's rings. (Helmut Linne von Berg)

Tucker Fisher will be directing people to the correct location.

Elizabeth Heimbach waits with torch at the head of the sidewalk.

Scene I

Jim Heimbach is coordinating this scene.

Mike Newman will be standing at the left foot of the steps with Scroll One.

Nancy Long and Larry Saylor will be standing at the right foot of the steps ready to provide music.

Becky Fisher (Mary) and Andrea Pogue (Gabriel) are inside.

When **Elizabeth** has led audience to the foot of the steps, front door opens, Mary comes out with a water bucket. She turns as if ready to draw water from a well, when Gabriel comes out of the house. Mary turns, looks shocked, and Gabriel points at her.

Mike reads Scroll One.

Scroll One Text

²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 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:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Andrea goes into the house. Becky follows. They then go out the back door with Chris, who has been waiting in the house, and across the field to the pine tree at the corner as Nancy sings.

Nancy and Larry sing Mary did you Know? When they are finished, they go to Elizabeth and follow her, with the audience, to the pine tree at the corner.

(Props needed for Scene I. Torch for Elizabeth. Scroll One. Liturgical runner for steps. Water bucket for Mary. Lanterns to line the sidewalk.)

Scene II and Scene III

Catherine Hicks is coordinating these scenes.

(Props On right side of tree, a table, Catherine's lantern, a chair; to left of the tree a chair for Mary, a second chair for Joseph and maybe some other homey looking props, Scroll Two)

Chris Fisher is sitting at the table on the right side of the tree. **Andrea** comes out from behind the pine tree and points at Chris.

Becky Fisher is sitting in a chair on the other side of the tree. Extra chair is there too.

Catherine Hicks reads the first part of Scroll Two.

First part of Scroll Two text

¹⁸ The Virgin Mary was espoused to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for the child which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife Mary.

When Catherine reads the last line, **Chris** gets lantern from table, goes to **Becky** who is sitting on the other side of the pine tree and they are together.

Larry and Nancy on the corner at the end of the sidewalk sing one verse of In the Bleak Midwinter.

Catherine reads the second part of Scroll Two.

Second part of Scroll Two text.

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.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ 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:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Becky and Chris, (carrying his lantern), Nancy and Larry, Catherine and then Elizabeth leading the crowd, all go down the path to the front porch of the parish house. **Andrea** goes into church with the other angels.

When they get to the parish house, **Chris and Becky** go to the front door and wait until audience is in place. **Larry and Nancy** go around the porch and stand on the right side of the porch. **Elizabeth** leads audience to the front of the porch so that they can see Becky and Chris at the front door.

Nancy and Larry stand to the right of the porch.

When everyone is in place, **Catherine** reads the last part of the scroll from the porch.

Last Part of Scroll Two

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ But even though Mary was ready to deliver, there was no room for them in the inn. And yet, taking pity on the woman who was great with child, the innkeeper offered his stable where Joseph and Mary might rest.

Chris and Becky knock on the door, **innkeeper (Johnny Davis)** opens the door, then beckons them in and they all go in the parish house and the door closes. Becky and Chris go through the Parish House, get Baby Jesus, and go to the Pavilion. Johnny changes into wiseman costume.

Nancy and Larry go in front of Elizabeth, who will lead the audience to the front of the church, where they will stand on the sidewalk outside the gate.

Scene IV

Jan Saylor is organizing this scene.

(Props—Fire pit, Tucker will have the fire going, cardboard sheep, some staffs for the shepherds, Scroll Three)

Shepherds Dave Duke, Arthur Duke, Chester Duke, Hamilton Duke, Evan Davis, Dickinson boy) are on the lawn.

Larry and Nancy stand right inside the gate on sidewalk and sing either The First Nowell or While Shepherds watched their flocks by night.

Jim Heimbach reads Scroll Three.

Text of Scroll Three.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ 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.

As **Jim** reads, **Andrea** comes out onto porch and “speaks” to shepherds.

Shepherds look frightened.

Then angels Mary Motley, Jan Saylor, Linda Kramer, Susan Linne von Berg, Marie Duke, Holly Davis, come out and stand on porch with Andrea, all lift their arms and try to look like angels until the reading gets to the part about the angels going away from them into heaven. Angels go back into the church.

Shepherds talk among themselves.

Nancy and Larry sing Angels we have heard on high and open the gate.

Elizabeth leads audience into the church yard. **Nancy and Larry, then shepherds, then Elizabeth** leading audience go through the graveyard and out the back gate to the pavilion.

Scene V

Props: Hay bales, lights, seating for Holy Family, manger, Cardboard donkey, cow, gold lantern that Chris brings with him.

For wisemen scene—a star that can be carried that Odessa will make, three boxes for wisemen gifts

Jan is directing this scene.

Jan and angels have gone out back along with the other angels and gotten into place behind the Holy Family, who are seated in the pavilion.) Nancy and Larry, shepherds and audience arrive.

Nancy and Larry sing Silent Night.

Cleo Coleman reads from Scroll IV—and pauses where after the line about the shepherds leaving.

Text of Scroll IV

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

And the shepherds came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Nancy and Larry sing Away in a manger.

Text of Scroll IV continued

Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² 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.

And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ 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.

Sydney Davis carries the star. Wisemen Zeke Fisher, Helmut Linne von Berg, Johnny Davis and Ken Pogue go out the Parish House through the front door and around the parish house to the pavilion and offer their gifts as **Cleo** reads the last part of the scroll.

Nancy and Larry sing “As with gladness men of old,” Verses 1 and 2

Catherine reads *The Work of Christmas*, and invites people into the parish house for refreshments. (We could hand out little cards with info about Christmas Eve service on it as people have their refreshments.)

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart.*

Welcome people into the parish house for refreshments.

6PM repeat the whole thing, with church bell ringing to begin the second show.