

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Elias

Opening Narration: The Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. In Him was life and that life was the light of man.

Sing: Christmas Carol Medley.

Elias

Narration: In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria and everyone went to his own town to register.

Joshua

Caesar Augustus: Hello! May I introduce myself. I am Caesar Augustus. The year is 6 B.C. I am the most important ruler in the world, king of the Roman Empire! That means I am the most important person in the world. I rule everyone. I am greatly feared! Let me tell you what happened this year.

This year I decided to call a census and number all my people. so everyone was called back to his ancestral home. Nothing unusual.

Sing: Candle in the Dark

Elias

Narrator: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, to the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Leonard

Innkeeper: the worst part of being an innkeeper during the census is turning people away. Sure, I like to make money, but I hate to say the words, "Sorry, no room here." And believe me, I've said it plenty of times today. Then a young man and his expectant wife came to the door. I don't know why, but the words stuck in my throat. The next thing I knew I was offering them the stable.

Sabina
Narrator: Long, long ago, before the beginning of time, there was total darkness. The earth was void of any form. But God, hovering over said, Let there be light.”

Light Candle #1 as the phrase “let there be light”

Adam
Narrator: When He was all finished creating the universe, god made the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, and place them in the beautiful Garden of Eden. They knew the light of God’s presence day and night.

Perfect peace in the Garden was interrupted by Stan’s temptation to disobey god’s one command and with one bite of the forbidden fruit, the first human sin was committed.

Their hearts once a glow with God’s presence, were now darkened. No more were they innocent and free. They were expelled from the garden to toil and sweat to exact a living from the earth that was, itself, cursed to groan under its load and grow thistles and thorns.

To keep the light of hope alive, god cursed the serpent through which Stan had spoken, to him, god leveled a blow that would be meted out during the course of human history. He said, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.”

Light Candle #2

Pauline
Narrator: Although men like Jacob and Moses repeated the promise that God would one day send a redeemer, this special nation, Israel, repeatedly rebelled against Him. God continued to show them how desperately man needed a way out. He foreshadowed His redemptive plan by setting in motion rituals of feasts and sacrifices that would ultimately be fulfilled in and through the life, the death and the resurrection of the Messiah, His Son Jesus Christ. But, Israel was a stubborn people; it would take centuries before God’s timing would allow for the Messiah’s birth.

As time passes, God raised up kings and prophets that urged Israel to follow God closely and watch for the coming Redeemer.

Alvin
Narrator: Prophets Jeremiah, Ezekial and Zechariah declared that a future king would come from the lineage of David. His birth would herald a new beginning - a new covenant. It was the prophet Micah who shed light on where this most unusual birth would occur.

“But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come from me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from a old, ancient times.

Light Candle #4

*Use for
Wanger
Scene Script!*

Sabrina

Narrator: Prophet Isaiah, seven centuries before Christ's birth, prophesied that the time of darkness and despair would not ^{go} on forever. He said, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

How was this light going to pierce the darkness? It would be just as God indicated back in the Garden of Eden. List as Isaiah continues, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Immanuel meaning God is with us."

Emphasizing that this child would be God's Son, Isaiah states, "for to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Light Candle #5

~~Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel~~

Adon

Narrator: As though looking down the long corridor of time, Isaiah prophesied that it would be this Prince of Peace that would bring about true liberty even though He would be rejected by his people, silent before his accusers, pierced for our sins, executed between two thieves, buried in a rich man's tomb but resurrected and alive in heaven as our intercessor.

Malachi was the last prophet to write and he even prophesied that this yet to be born king would one day return to earth and at that time every knee will bow to the Lord of lords.

Light Candle #6

Pauline

Narrator: Four hundred years of silence passed from the time Malachi. World powers changed several times - Persia, Greece - finally Rome. Life continued with hope of a Messiah still only a dim light in the future.

Then in God's perfect timing, He chose a young virgin in the city of Nazareth - her name was Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

God sent the angel Gabriel to inform her that she would give birth to a baby whom He alone had placed within her. Joseph was also informed of the baby by an angel. He was told that the baby's name would be Jesus and this Jesus would grow up to save His people from their sin. At last after centuries of waiting, the light was breaking through.

Light Candle #7

Clara

Innkeeper's Wife: I think I've been scrubbing and cleaning ever since Caesar Augustus issued that decree for the census. We put extra beds everywhere we could find a place to put them, and they're all full too. I was so tired of people knocking on the door... then one ~~came~~ I came. I can't put my finger on it, but there was something special about them.

Sing: No Room for the Baby Lord Jesus

Narrator: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths, and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Jolene

Mary: (looking into the manger) My child is finally here, and He's the most beautiful baby I've ever seen. Look at His tiny hands, and His eyes are bright and alert. I hope He's warm enough in this drafty stable. Perhaps I'll put one more cover on Him. I can't believe this perfect little baby is my son... and God's son, too.

Jennifer

Joseph: Just when I was wondering how I could be father to a king, the Savior of the world, Your tiny hand grasped my rough carpenter's finger. You seemed to be reassuring me, telling me that nothing is impossible when God is leading. Can it be that I'm already learning from You, my Son? thank you, God, for trusting Mary and me with Your most precious gift. May we ever strive to be worthy.

Sing: Anywhere He Is

Narrator: and there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over the flocks at night.

Shepherd 1: You know, we sit out here watching over our flocks every night while our sheep get plenty of sleep.

An angel in a bright white robe enters

Janice

Angel: Fear not. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, 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: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying --

(More angels enter)

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

Sing: Glory to God in the Highest

Narrator: So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Michael

Shepherd 1: Can this little child wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in this manger be king someday? I hope His parents don't mind if I get close, but I feel drawn to Him. It feels like this whole stable is filled with love. Thank you, God for sending Your Son to earth. I love Him with all my heart, and I will always worship and praise Him.

Daniel

Shepherd 2: I can hardly believe the prophecy I've heard about it all my life is now coming true before my eyes.

Conrad

Shepherd 3: I am just a shepherd, little King, who hasn't much to offer, but I will worship and praise You with all my heart.

~~Sing: Come as a Child~~

Elias

Narrator: When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherd said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

~~Sing On Happy Day~~

Elias

Narrator: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, magi from the East came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him." And the star they had seen in the East went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Sing: Going to See the King

Narrator: When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming into the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him.

Sing: Star of Wonder

Tamara

Wise man 1: Each night for many years I have studied the stars, but I have never seen anything like this brilliant star leading us to You, the promised Messiah.

Joshua

Wise man 2: We are bringing You these treasured gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for we know that You are the true King of Israel.

Jamice

Wise man 3: Although we are weary from our long journey, the chance to see the prophesied Kings brings us new strength.

Sing: ~~Candlelight Carol Medley~~ One Small Child

Narration: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you; God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

Sing: Thank You for Your Only Son

One Small Child

Words and Music by
DAVID MEECE

unison

1. One small child in a land of a thou - sand,
 2. One king bring - ing his gold and - rich - es,
 3. One small light from the flame of a can - dle,
 4. One small child in a land of a thou - sand,

One small dream of a Sav-ior to - night, One small hand reach - ing
 One king rul - ing an ar - my of might, One king kneel - ing with
 One small light from a cit - y of might, One small light - from the
 One small dream in a peo - ple of might, One small hand reach - ing

out to the star - light, One small cit - y of life. _____
 in - cense and can - dle light, One King bring - ing us life. _____
 stars in the end - less night, One small light from His face. _____
 out to the star - light, One small Sav - ior of life. _____

Oh _____ See Him ly - ing, a
 _____ See the shep - herds

Alina
Narrator: Shepherds that night, were no doubt, bedazzled by the brilliancy of angels in the sky proclaiming Jesus; birth. No doubt, the three wise men, who later visited the child Jesus were amazed by the bright star that guided them to Him. But those lights went away. It was the light of Jesus that remained.

Though many would try to snuff out this light, the fact remained that He was the Light that the prophets had spoken of. He was the one whom God said would crush the serpent's head. He was himself creator of all things. He had always been alive. Now, He was on the earth to be our Savior.

Apostle John said, "in Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

Light Candle #9

Sabrina
Narrator: John also records that though many He made the world, the world didn't know Him. While many believed, many accused Him of being an imposter and an insurrectionist.

He was put to death but the light was not extinguished; it burned even brighter because God's requirement for blood sacrifice to atone for sin had been satisfied. Jesus had just become the perfect sacrifice.

Light Candle #10

Adara
Narrator: He was laid in a tomb, but the tomb would not extinguish the Light. The little baby born so long ago, who grew to manhood and lived thirty-three perfect years on earth, made the only payment God will accept for our sin. But He arose from the grave, He paved the way for us to join Him in heaven when life here is over. The light of the world, Jesus replaced fear of death as He walked out of the tomb alive. It was for this moment that He was born.

Light Candle #11

Pauline
Narrator: With the light from the candle symbolizing our Lord's resurrection, I come to tonight. Because Christ lives, we, His children can shed light in the dark world to those in despair.

Lift you candles high for a moment.... The glow of Christmas candlelight never grows old does it? Each year we leave with its glow warming our hearts. But consider for a brief minute how dark your life would be if there wasn't the light of hope burning deep within you. Sharing that light of hope and security would be the best Christmas gift any of us could give back to the one who set the world aglow and whose birthday we celebrate tonight.

Please sing with us "Silent Night! Holy Night! As our benediction.