

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Setting

Luke 2:1-4

Leader: 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.)

People: All went to their own towns to be registered.

Leader: So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem.

People: Because he was descended from the house and family of David.

Meditation

"History Often Repeats Itself"

Carol Page 121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

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

Traveling to Bethlehem

Luke 2: 5-7

Leader: He went there to register with Mary, his espoused wife,

People: being great with child.

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

People: 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.

Meditation

"No Marriott, No Hampton Inn, No Days Inn"

Solo

"Mary Did You Know?"

Mark Lowery

Julie Helmers, soloist

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8-12

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

People: 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.

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

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Carol 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

***The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay; In fields where they....lay a keeping their sheep, On a cold winter
night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.***

Luke 2:13-14

Leader: And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the Heavenly host praising God, and saying,

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

Carol 119

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"***

Luke 2: 15-20

Leader: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said to one 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."

People: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Leader: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which had been told them concerning the child.

People: And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart,

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

Meditation

"The Shepherds Role"

Dr. Dawson Harmon

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise

*Carol 134

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart, prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.***