

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-40

CAST:

Narrator: John O'Mahony
Caesar Augustus: Joel Ledbetter
Joseph: Jonathan Nagle
Mary: Sarah Johnson
Innkeeper: Lee Johnson
Simeon: Kevin Bartlett
Anna: Delores O'Connell

Shepherd 1: Nita (Joshua is a lamb)
Shepherd 2: Liz Nagle
Townsperson 1: Ruth Ledbetter
Townsperson 2: Ann Johnson
Angel of the Lord: David Johnson
Angel 1: Joy Nagle
Angel 2: Sharon Ledbetter

SONG (O Come All ye Faithful)

NARRATOR (Caesar, Joseph, Mary)

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

Caesar Augustus reading a decree saying "I want more taxes! Hah, ha, ha, ha!" He then leaves laughing.

Joseph and Mary read of the decree and head South to Bethlehem

Joseph and Mary try to find room, but are turned away. Sadly they end up in a barn

SONG (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

NARRATOR (Joseph, Mary, Innkeeper, Baby)

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.

Mary joyfully wraps her baby in swaddling clothes, and then after a pause, everybody heads out of view

NARRATOR (Angel of the Lord, Shepherds)

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. And the angel said unto them,

Shepherds are met by the Angel of the Lord, and are afraid!

ANGEL OF THE LORD (Angel of the Lord, Shepherds)

"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."

SONG (Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

NARRATOR (Angel of the Lord, Angels, Shepherds)

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

More angels appear and shout the following words!

ALL ANGELS (Angel of the Lord, Angels, Shepherds)

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

NARRATOR (Shepherds)

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another,

The angels disappear

SHEPHERD 1 (Shepherds)

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

The shepherds run to find the baby in the manger

SONG (It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

NARRATOR (Shepherds, Joseph, Mary, Baby, Townspeople)

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.

Once they see Him, they then go to the village and tell everyone that the Messiah has been born!

SONG (What Child is This?)

NARRATOR (Shepherds, Joseph, Mary, Baby)

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.

Mary is astonished at all the excitement, and is happy

The shepherds return to their sheen delighted!

SONG (Silent Night)

NARRATOR (Joseph, Mary, Baby)

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Joseph and Mary take baby Jesus to Jerusalem with their offering of two birds

NARRATOR (Joseph, Mary, Baby, Simeon)

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: 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 by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Simeon wanders near to Joseph and Mary and then speaks to them

SIMEON (Joseph, Mary, Baby, Simeon)

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 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."

NARRATOR (Joseph, Mary, Baby, Simeon)

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother,

SIMEON (Joseph, Mary, Baby, Simeon)

"Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Mary is frightened, and Joseph is concerned!

NARRATOR (Joseph, Mary, Baby, Anna, Townspeople)

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Simeon leaves, and then Anna comes near and starts silently talking to Joseph and Mary. She then heads off to talk to the townspeople about Jesus!

NARRATOR (Joseph, Mary, Baby)

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Joseph and Mary head home to Nazareth

SONG (Joy to the World) THE END