

Nativity Drama: The Angels' Big Entrance

Written by Silvia Purdie

for Cashmere Presbyterian Church, 2017

Has accompanying Powerpoint

Characters:

*You need 5 adult (or youth) **actors**:*

Gabriel is the head angel. He is somewhat pompous and bossy.

Angels 1 and 2 are like side-kicks, eager to please

Wise Man is rather esoteric

the Star is even more esoteric and ethereal ... hard to get a straight answer from!

Non-speaking parts: *Mary and Joseph, shepherds.*

Plus children can join in as angels, wise men & shepherds.

Angels 1 & 2 need a walk-about microphone, that they can hold for the Wise Man. Gabriel stays in the pulpit so has the pulpit mike. Star has the lecturn mike.

This drama aims to use the whole church space, so have people coming in from the back door and moving through to the side or to the front of the church. If you have a high pulpit or steps anywhere use these.

Set-up: *Very little stage set-up required.*

A manger (empty) with straw up at the very front of the church (move communion table out of the way)

Angels need an ipad.

A baby Jesus (doll or actual baby) needs to be put into the manger during 'Away in the Manger'

Powerpoint: *carol words and graphics on powerpoint (the congregation and musicians form the voice of God through the carols)*

Rainbow ribbons for dancing at the end.

Costumes *needed for the actors and any children who want to dress-up.*

Before-hand: *Gabriel is in the pulpit. Angels 1 & 2 in side room. Wise men, Mary & Joseph in foyer ready to come in main door. Shepherds & Star sitting in church ready to come up.*

Carols *are mostly traditional, but this play does include 2 NZ carols from 'Carol our Christmas' (NZ Hymnbook Trust). If you want only traditional carols these can be substituted for others. There is a short burst of Alleluias from the Halleluia Chorus.*

Nativity Play

The Angel Gabriel is dozing up in the pulpit. Angels 1 & 2 rush in, holding ipad.

Angel 1: Gabriel, Gabriel, wake up!

Gabriel: Yes yes what is it?

Angel 1: There's a message just come through from the Most High

Gabriel: A message eh, I haven't seen the latest.

Angel 2: Didn't you get it on Twitter?

Gabriel: I am an angel not a budgie!

Angel 1: Haven't you checked Messenger?

Gabriel: I am The Messenger, thank you very much

Angel 2: Well how about your Gmail?

Gabriel: Only if it's 'G' Mail!

Angel 1: Here it is, I've found it. It's a voice message:

Sing: Angels from the realms of glory (first verse only)

Angel 2: Messiah's birth! No way! Wow! We've waited so long! It's finally happening

Angel 1: Do you know anything about this?

Gabriel: Of course. I asked a very nice girl called Mary if she wouldn't mind being his mother ... Good heavens, was that 9 months ago already? Well come on, what are you waiting for? Where are we going? Where is he?

Angel 2: Um ... the message just says 'wing your flight over all the earth'. That's not very specific.

Gabriel: Mary was in Nazareth, I guess we're going there then.

Angel 1: What do you folks think? Should we proclaim Messiah's birth in Nazareth?

Kids: NO!

Angel 2: Well where then?

Kids: Bethlehem!

Gabriel: Bethlehem? Not much there you know. I think the Messiah should be born somewhere important, don't you? Really make an impact, you know. You two, go find some important people and see what they know. Why don't you start with that lot, they look impressive.

Wise men come in from the back. The conversation with Wise Man happens ½ way down the aisle.

Sing: We three kings of Orient are (verses 1 & 5)

Angel 1: Excuse me gentlemen, please tell us, where are you going?

Wise Man: We have come from the East. We seek the child, the King about to be born.

Angel 2: Hey, same here! And how do you know where you are going?

Wise Man: We follow the star. We saw it's rising from the East and we follow it. The ruler of Jerusalem told us that ancient prophecies point to the city of David where the King will be born.

Angel 1: Yeah yeah, that makes sense. The City of David. Bethlehem. Good plan!

Angel 2: But watch out for that ruler in Jerusalem. I wouldn't trust him as far as your camel can spit.

Angel 1: So where is this star that you're following?

Wise Man: We follow the star. That one there!

Points to the Star who is standing at the lectern (standing on a stool)

Wise men walk past and out into side room.

Sing: And did you see him little star, long long ago (*Carol our Christmas*)

Angel 1: So, star, have you seen the Christ child?

Star: The light of Christ is coming into the world. I shine bright but he will outshine me! I feel his coming, his power breaking through, but it is hidden. Few will see it but most will miss it.

Angel 2: Yeah yeah but where? We have to proclaim his coming and we're having trouble finding him.

Star: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it!

(angels shrug, a bit confused)

Angel 1: I suppose we'd better report back to Gabrielle. I don't know if we've got much.

Gabriel: Well, have you found the Messiah? I need to get the venue right for my big entrance!

Angel 1: Well, it's like this -

Angel 2: He's being born in the City of David, in Bethlehem

Angel 1: probably

Angel 2: and a star is leading the way

Angel 1: kind of!

Gabriel: Indeed. I expect it will be in the High Priest's house, that's very grand. I will appear while all the important people in Bethlehem are gathered and it will be wonderful!

Mary and Joseph walk up the aisle all the way to the manger where they sit down.

Angel 2: Hang on, who's that on the road?

Gabriel: Well spotted, yes indeed that is Mary, the mother of our Lord, on her way to Bethlehem. But why does she not have the best carriage? Why does she stagger in pain? And that house she is going into – that is not an important house, it is already crowded, just an ordinary house, and she is going through into the stable, with the animals, and on the straw and hay. That is not right! What is going on here??

Sing: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

During this carol the baby is born ... put a doll or actual baby into the manger (or held by Mary if she is the baby's mum)

Gabriel: Not right at all. Oh well, must make the best of a bad job. Stand aside, I'm going in!

Angel 1: Wait! There's a new message from God coming through.

Sing: the First Noel (first verse)

Gabriel: Shepherds! Out in the fields! You have Got To Be Kidding!! Shepherds are nobodies, sheep-brains, ratbags. What use is it appearing to Shepherds?? No one will ever believe them! The Most High has lost his marbles! Play the message again, you can't be serious!

Sing: the First Noel (first verse)

Shepherds stand up and come to the front row.

Gabriel: Shepherds, Lord? You're the boss, shepherds it is. Well team, this is our big entrance, we might as well make it fabulous!

Sing: Alleluia chorus

Sing: While shepherds watched their flocks by night (all 3 verses)

Give everyone rainbow ribbons

Sing: The stars danced, the angels sang (*Carol our Christmas*)

Create manger scene, with dancing.

During the song the wise men and shepherds come to the manger and stand around.

Angels watch on from the pulpit