

Mary Remembers

A Christmas Pageant - By The Rev. Ann Smith

The scene opens with Mary sitting to one side of the stage. She is holding a beautifully decorated box. She opens it and reaches inside as she begins to speak.

Mary: My name is Mary. I call this my box of memories. I have been putting mementos in this box my whole life. Most of them have something to do with my son. He was a remarkable person. I know everyone says that about his or her children. But I think you'll agree as I tell you his story that it is the greatest story every told.

(She takes out a shawl.) I remember when I first wore this. I was just a young woman then. I lived in the town of Nazareth. Life was good. I was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. Then one day I was out in the garden.

A young Mary wearing the shawl enters and sits centre stage.

Mary: An angel appeared to me. He must have seen the startled look on my face.

Gabriel: Don't be afraid! You will give birth to a son and you shall call him Jesus. This baby shall be the Saviour, the Son of God.

Young Mary: Let it be as you have said.

The angel comes toward her. She shrinks back in fear. She stands and turns toward the audience crossing her arms in front of her. The choir sings "Tell out my Soul".

Mary: My real fear was that Joseph wouldn't understand. But he had a dream. God explained it to him as well. He was very happy. Before the baby was born we were married.

(Mary takes out a cowbell.) Oh yes! This came from that stable in Bethlehem. Now that is another long story. You might think that my being pregnant with Jesus would mean that we would stay home in Nazareth. But Caesar had declared a new tax, and we all had to return to the city of our birth. For Joseph that meant travelling with me all the way to Bethlehem. When we arrived there we found that there was simply no where to stay. We tried all of Joseph's relatives; no one had even a corner in which to put us up. Then we traipsed around to every inn, but even when they saw that I was about to have a baby, still they couldn't find room for us. Finally an innkeeper felt sorry for me and offered us a warm bed of hay in his stable. It was there that Jesus was born.

The choir sings "Standing in the Rain" as Mary and Joseph wander across the stage. Mary and Joseph stand talking to an innkeeper. He nods his head. They turn away. He calls them back and leads them into the stable. He finds them a manger and some hay.

Mary: (Mary takes out a piece of cloth.) These are the clothes I put on him. He was such a good baby - so tiny and beautiful. I wrapped him in the clothes and laid him in a bed of hay in the manger. It wasn't fancy, but at least he was warm and cozy. The animals all gathered around him. It was as if they knew who he was.