

On the Road to Bethlehem A Pageant

by The Rev. Ann M. Smith

(A stable is set up at one side of the church. The door is closed.)

Scene 1 - Isaiah Greet the People

(Isaiah enters and stands at the lectern.)

Isaiah My name is Isaiah. I am a prophet of God. God sent the people of Israel a sign saying to them: "There is a young woman who is going to have a baby. She will call him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'. Then all the people who have lived in the dark will walk out into the light. The baby to be born will be our King. He will be as wise as Solomon, and as strong as God. He will be called the Prince of Peace. Now take heart, my people. Make a road through the desert for your God to come to you."

Processional Hymn: Prepare the Way of the Lord 107

(The choir processes into the church singing the hymn.)

Isaiah Here today, you are beginning a journey that leads to Bethlehem. There are others on the road to guide you on your way. Now hear the message the angels of God have for you.

Scene 2 - The Message of the Angels

Hymn: Gloria 376

(During the singing of the hymn the angels process in and take their place on the altar steps. Angels 1 and 2 and Gabriel go to the lectern.)

1st Angel The power of God can do all things, even things we think impossible.

2nd Angel God always makes a new beginning possible.

All: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

Hymn: Gloria

Gabriel God sent me to the town of Nazareth, to a young girl called Mary. She was engaged to a man called Joseph, of the house of David. I said to her, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, and you are blessed. Don't be afraid. God has chosen you to be the mother of his Son. You must name him Jesus which means 'God has come to save us'"

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

Gabriel Then we appeared to some shepherds out in the fields watching their flocks. We told them the wonderful news of Jesus' birth and where they could find him.

Hymn: Shepherds in the Field Abiding (vs. 3 & 4)

(Liturgical dance of the angels -

Vs. 3 The angels spread out into the aisles of the church.

Chorus: Gloria - they twirl to the right.

In excelsis deo - hand come together as if in prayer.

Gloria - twirl to the left.

In excelsis deo - they go down on one knee.

Vs. 4

Thanks good shepherds, true your story - hands held out

Let us go to Bethlehem - motion with one hand towards the stable.

Angels hymn the king of glory - one hand from their mouth to heaven.