

Carol we with you and them - hands in motion to congregation.

Chorus: repeat

Repeat chorus as angels take their place in the stable.)

Scene 3 - The Story of the Shepherds

(The shepherds enter and begin to build their campfire. Two of the shepherds leave the fire building and go to the lectern.)

1st Shepherd We are poor, yet the angels visited us and told us of the birth of Jesus.

2nd Shepherd May it bring joy to us and peace to the earth.

1st Shepherd We were taking turns looking after the sheep that night when the strangest thing happened. The sky filled with light as if it were day. God's angels appeared to us. They told us the good news that Jesus was born. They sent us to Bethlehem to look for the child. We found them - Mary, Joseph, and the baby - just as we had been told.

2nd Shepherd Shepherd If you come with us to Bethlehem, you too will find the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain (insert)

(During the hymn the shepherds go to the congregation, shake their hands and gesture for them to follow to Bethlehem. During the final chorus, they go to the stable.)

Scene 4 - The Three Kings

Hymn: We Three Kings (insert)

(During the singing of the hymn, the kings enter following a small child dressed as a star. The star stands behind the altar. The three kings go to the lectern.)

1st King We followed a star from the East where we live. It was a long journey. But we knew that the star would lead us to a king such as the world had never seen.

2nd King We brought fine gifts with us - gold, frankincense and myrrh.

3rd King Follow the star to Bethlehem and bring your gifts to the child.

Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old vs. 1&3 160

(During the hymn the star leads the kings to the stable.)

Scene 5 - The Baby Jesus

(The door to the stable is opened to reveal Mary, Joseph and the baby in the stable.)

Mary Come in, dear people. You are welcome here. This is Jesus, the child you are looking for. Your journey ends here.

Joseph His birthplace is but a stable, poor and lowly. But the child you see before you is the Prince of Peace. Isaiah foretold it. Angels announced it. Humble shepherds brought their simple gifts. Great kings brought precious gifts. Come now and offer your gifts to the child.

Offertory hymn: Joy to the World 154