A Scripture Based Christmas Pageant

*Arranged in 2013 by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski*   
*for St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Stuart, FL*

*Text is from the NRSV with occasional modifications*

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**Narrator**: The nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel writings of St. Luke and St. Matthew.

**Narrator**: Now the birth of Jesus took place in this way: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to their own towns to be registered.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Mary and Joseph take the stage during the song

**Narrator**: Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.   

*Away in A Manger*

Acolytes take the stage and create the manger scene during the song

**Narrator**: And in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

*Go Tell it on the Mountain!*

Shepherds take the stage during the song

**Narrator**: And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

*No music at this point*

Gabriel runs down the aisle

**Narrator**: And the angel said to them, *(holds mic for Gabriel)*

**Gabriel**: Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people! To you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!

**Narrator**: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

*Angels we have Heard on High*

Angels take the stage during the song

**Narrator**: When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*What Child is This?*

Mary and Joseph hold the baby and greet the angles and shepherds  
(Nobody takes the stage at this point)

**Narrator**: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.”

*We Three Kings*

The magi (three kings) and the STARS take the stage during the song

**Narrator**: When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Joy to the World*

All actors come off the stage during the song