

*Cross of Glory – Vistancia
Christmas Play*



Lake Pleasant Elementary Gym
December 26, 2021

The Reason for the Season – Christmas Service

December 26th, 2021

[Full Script]

Opening Hymn

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

CW #55:1-3

**1 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.**

**[Refrain:] Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**2 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father. [Refrain]**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest. [Refrain]**

Introduction

Pt. John Ehlers

ACT I – THE REASON IS COMING (The Angel Appears to Mary)

Narrator 1: We find ourselves about 700 years after Isaiah spoke the beautiful promise that a virgin would give birth to the Son of God. “Now the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.” But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.” Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Theme Song

The Reason for the Season

Michael Schroeder

**1. As I walk on a winters night,....the snow is falling down.
There's decorated Christmas lights on every street in town
At the Mall all the signs say sale, ...There's trees and mistletoe
And for a moment I forget,...What all the world should know.**

CHORUS: That the reason for the season,...isn't lights or gifts we gain.
It isn't Santa, wreaths, or stockings,...or trees or candy canes
Oh the Reason for the Season, Is for God so loved he gave,
His one and only son,.... So that I'd be saved.

2. As I walk past some office lights,..... there's parties all around.
We celebrate, yet miss the point,... of what it's all about.
And I think how could I forget,.... With all the sins I've sown.
This baby child's the greatest gift,....the world has ever known. **CHORUS: Oh...**

BRIDGE: Will I remember,.....never to let go,
And keep the Christ in Christmas,.....every where I go. **CHORUS:**

ACT II: THE REASON'S ARRIVAL

Scene 1: Mary gives birth to Jesus

Narrator 2: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. And everyone went to register, each to his own town. So, Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Congregational Hymn

Away in a Manger

CW #68

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

Scene 2: The Angel of the LORD appears to the Shepherds

Narrator 3: There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

1 Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply,
 Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Scene 3: The Host of Angels joins the Angel of the Lord

Narrator 4: Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

Scene 4: The Shepherds worship the Christ Child

Narrator 4: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Song response

He Has Come for Us

Meredith Andrews

God rest ye merry gentlemen Let nothing you dismay
 Remember Christ, our Savior Was born on Christmas day
 To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray
 O, tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy O, tidings of comfort and joy
 [Refrain:] He has come for us This Jesus He's the hope for all Mankind
 He has come for us The Messiah Born to give us life

From God, our heavenly Father A blessed angel came
 And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same
 How that Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name
 O, tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy O, tidings of comfort and joy [Refrain:]

Bridge: Now all the angels sing "Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born!"
 All the children sing "Hallelujah! "He is Christ the Lord!" [Refrain:]

Oh He is Born to give us life Ohoho Jesus is Born Hey Hallelujah He is the Lord!

ACT III: THE ADORATION OF THE REASON

Narrator 5: Then they took Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

Simeon: "Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Narrator 6: Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother...

Simeon: "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce **your own soul too.**"

Narrator 6: Now Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She did not leave the temple complex—since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. She also greeted the babe with joy and wonder.

So, when Mary and Joseph had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth.

Theme Song Reprise

The Reason for the Season

Michael Schroeder

CHORUS: That, the reason for the season...it isn't lights or gifts we gain.
It isn't Santa, wreaths, or stockings,...or trees or candy canes
Oh the Reason for the Season, Is for God so loved he gave,
His one and only son,... So that I'd be saved.

BRIDGE: Will I remember,.....never to let go,
And keep the Christ in Christmas,.....every where I go. **CHORUS:**

FINALE: Well...His one and only son.... So that I'd be saved

ACT IV: OUR WORSHIP OF JESUS, THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Christmas Message – Pastor

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY: Vera Vandermause

JOSEPH: Matson Grams

GABRIEL: Betsy Grams

SIMEON: Brad Hotz

ANNA: Carolyn Hotz

ANGELS:

Paityn Ditter

Stacy Ditter

Cathy Mundstock

Nicole Brown

Laina Brown

Betsy Grams

SHEPHERDS:

Brevin Vandermause

Ezekiel Collins

Jace Collins

Van Vandermause

NARRATORS:

Narrator 1: Nicole Brown

Narrator 2: Pt. Freeman

Narrator 3: Maxine Freeman

Narrator 4: Nathan Brown

Narrator 5: Mike Mundstock [alt. Jerrod Collins]

Narrator 6: Laina Brown