

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

by Karyl J. Garner



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Christmas Around the World

by KARYL J. GARNER

CHARACTERS, COSTUMES, PROPS

To make things easier, let each character and his/her mother be responsible for his/her costume and props. Request that each character use a shopping bag (clearly identified) to hold their costumes/props. This is a great help for the aides who will assist in dressing the cast. When you hand out the roles, include on the paper the dates and times of rehearsal and performance, as well as costume and prop requests and instructions. Do make a copy for yourself that can then be re-copied as cast members lose the originals — and they will.

NARRATORS:

The narrators are identified in the script as A through M. This can be reduced, if preferred, to only two narrators: Man and Woman. The pageant has been written for the narrators to read in pairs (exception being M). They can share one lectern, or be divided, one on either side of the chancel. The narrator role is the perfect spot for many older participants. It also gives many the chance to participate. The more experienced should be chosen for the more difficult sections.

LUCIA: (*Non-speaking*)

COSTUME: White dress with red sash. Her crown can be fashioned of light cardboard, with greens glued or stapled around the base. Popsicle sticks can provide support if the candles need it. (See diagram.)

PROPS: One small tea set. Attach the serving pieces to the tray securely with doublesided tape or glue.

ACTION: Does not join processional, but enters slowly from the back of the church during narration (or optional special music). During the proper narration, she wakens and serves family, decorates tree and circles it during song. At the end of song, she helps clear set, then takes her seat.

CANDLE SNUFFERS: (*2 to 6 optional, non-speaking*)

COSTUME: White shirts with dark trousers. Tuck the bottom of the pant legs into knee socks to resemble pages.

PROP: Each should carry a candle snuffer.

ACTION: Do not join processional, but accompany Lucia as she enters. Do not enter Centerstage area, but stop before then. Remain until set is cleared, then take their seats.

SWEDISH FAMILY: (*4 or 5, non-speaking*)

COSTUME: None, night stocking caps if desired.

PROPS: Perhaps a Christmas ornament for the tree.

ACTION: During congregational song, "O Come All Ye Faithful," sit on small chairs in Centerstage and pantomime sleep. Awakened by Lucia, served, set up tree, decorate with one ornament if desired, circle tree during song. They should remove their own chairs during refrain to help clear set, then return to their seats.

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PILGRIMS: (*Any number, 1 speaking*)

These are good roles for the youngest participants since they only follow the speaking pilgrim in a procession. Use two older pilgrims to lead.

COSTUMES: Colorful! Boys can wear white shirts, wide sashes, serapes, sombreros or straw hats (western style). Girls wear colorful skirts, peasant-type tops, ribbon choker with flower attached to it, flowers in their hair, colorful jewelry.

PROPS: The two leading pilgrims will need figures of Mary and Joseph to carry. Puppets or small dolls attached to a stick (so they can be held up high) and dressed Mexican style if possible. A small set of outdoor figures could also suffice. These should be placed on a tray to be carried.

ACTION: During traveling music, they form a procession, and move to the different houses as per narration. They enter the last house and sit on floor, one pilgrim to be selected to break piñata. They then wave goodbye and exit to edge of Centerstage awaiting cue to surround manger and sing "Away in a Manger." During refrain, they return to seats.

INNKEEPERS: (*3 speaking*)

COSTUMES: Same as pilgrims.

PROPS: The third innkeeper needs a piñata, and a small stick for breaking piñata. The piñata needs to hang from a long stick so it can be dangled over the heads of the children. (Piñata and stick should be placed near Centerstage prior to performance.)

ACTION: Assume proper place during the time that the pilgrims are forming their procession line. Third innkeeper joins in piñata breaking, then all should join the pilgrims during song, "Away in a Manger," and return to seats during refrain.

BEFANA: (*Speaking*)

COSTUME: Old lady dress, apron.

PROPS: Broom, small handbasket, small gifts such as wooden toy, fruit, handful of nuts. Optional: small candle lamp for cottage. (Props should be placed near Centerstage prior to performance.)

ACTION: At proper time, Befana enters Centerstage and begins to sweep, following dialogue.

MAGI: (*3 speaking*)

COSTUME: Rich-looking bathrobes, or choir robes, belted with gold, silver, or satin. Crowns fashioned from light cardboard and decorated with jewels.

PROPS: Each should carry a gift, such as a rich-looking box, or urn

ACTION: Enter as directed, follow dialogue.

SHEPHERDS: (2 or 3, 1 speaking)

COSTUME: Dark, drab bathrobe, belted. Dark towel or cloth on head, ends hanging down back, then a tie placed around head and knotted in back.

PROPS: Staff or long walking stick.

ACTION: Enter as directed, following dialogue. Also in final nativity scene.

MARY: (non-speaking)

COSTUME: Long, dark skirt and dark shawl to place over head.

ACTION: Final nativity scene.

JOSEPH: (non-speaking)

COSTUME: Similar to shepherds.

ACTION: Final nativity scene.

ANGELS: (2 or 3, non-speaking)

COSTUME: White robe (choir robe perhaps), small angel wings fashioned from cardboard and sprayed silver or covered with foil (see diagram). Use a length of silver tinsel made into a circle and laid on top of each angel head — attach with bobby pins.

ACTION: Final nativity scene.

NON-CAST BUT ESSENTIAL

AIDES: (2 or 3)

These will be your right hands, so get solid commitments. You can use mothers who volunteer, or perhaps mature senior highs. Besides helping the cast to dress, they will assist in keeping order. They should sit with children during the performance and, using a script, can follow the action and jog a memory, if necessary.

USHERS:

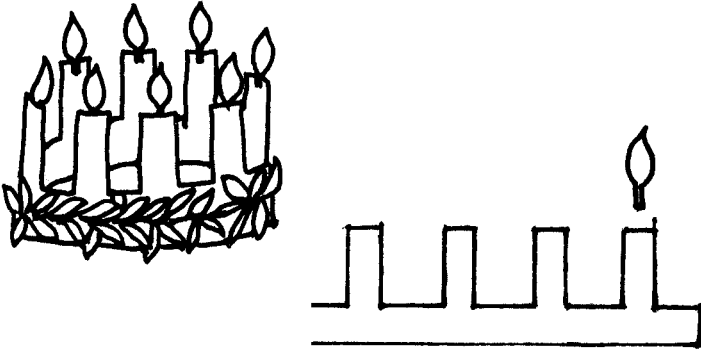
1. Cordon off pews reserved for cast.
2. Pass out programs and help with seating if necessary.
3. Alert cast when organist begins prelude.

MISCELLANEOUS PROP LIST

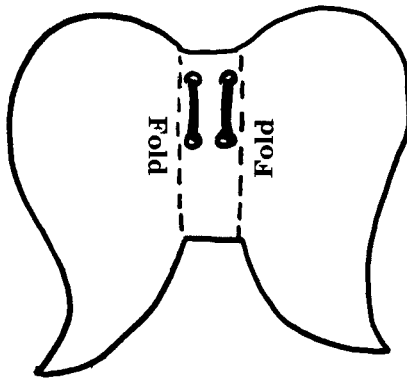
1. Step stool for narrators, if necessary.
2. Small Sunday school chairs that will be used as beds for Swedish family.
3. Small, portable Christmas tree.
4. Manger and baby.

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

LUCIA'S CROWN: Fashion the crown from light cardboard. Make the flames of yellow, sturdy paper. Attach greens to the crown base with staples or glue. (The Magi crowns can be fashioned in the same manner with many variations. By having each magus do his/her own, they will all be different.)



ANGEL WINGS: A good-sized cardboard box will do for the wings. Spray painting them silver, rather than using foil, is recommended. Punch holes at the dots and use cord (two pieces) threaded through holes, top/bottom. Knot each cord after leaving enough cord for the angel to put her arms through each loop (a la cape style). Safety pins at the shoulder seams of the robe will permit easy attachment of the cord to prevent them from falling off.



REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE

Select your performance date, schedule the rehearsal(s), and **reserve** your location **and** organist. The organist can smooth over the performance more than any other person. With a script alongside of the music, he/she can give the cast that extra minute to clear a set, or to get ready for the action.

Read the pageant and block out the action according to the physical characteristics of your own church. First decide where the narrators will read from. Then, where will the main stage area be? Perhaps the most difficult to locate will be the first and second inns in Mexico (the last should be in the designated main stage area). Could the pilgrims walk all the way around the church? With the organ providing traveling music, why not? Think about the direction you want the Magi and shepherds to take. Once you have the action blocked out, assign the cast seats in the front pews, or pews closest to their action.

CASTING: You can either have tryouts, or ask for volunteers from the Sunday school classes. The Sunday school teachers can probably help by recommending strong readers for the narrator roles. This is one of the most difficult phases of a Christmas pageant, for most children are eager to participate. It isn't easy to come up with something for everybody. For those with no desire to "ham it up," ushers and helpers are always welcome, and these functions give more children a chance to be part of the program. Optional suggestion: in case you need more slots for young cast members, make signs, each with Merry Christmas in a different language, for the youngsters to hold. They would stand beside the lectern during the narration, or during the songs that match the country they are representing; the country the songs originated in could be listed in the program.

MUSIC: If you are going to use the carols that have been suggested, how many verses of each will you use? Consult with your organist and fill him/her in on the action and your needs. Ask the Sunday school teachers if they would teach the children the words to "Jesus Loves the Little Children," "Away in a Manger," and "Silent Night."

Pass out the script/costume/prop/schedule sheets to your cast in plenty of time.

LIGHTING: Unless you have access to a professional who won't bother you with details, forget it. Chancel lights off or on at strategic times might be all right if an adult or mature senior high student wants to give it a try. They will need a cue sheet and need to know exactly where and how the action is to take place. They need to be at rehearsal. Remember, if the church is too dark the congregation won't be able to read their hymnals.

Plan on the first part of rehearsal as strictly a walk-through. Seat the cast as per your assignment. Then, much like a movie in reverse, line the cast up, move them to the back of the church, and presto, you have a processional. (One of the aides should write down the order for use on performance night.) Have the cast run through the action several times, then add the music. If time permits, you could have more than one rehearsal, but this pageant has been performed successfully with benefit of only one rehearsal. It may appear that chaos reigns, but if your children know exactly what they are to do and when to do it, you'll be amazed on the night of performance how they "come through" like old hands.

OPTIONAL IDEA: Unless it is traditional for your church to have the children perform close to the 25th, you may want to consider a date earlier in December. This will eliminate added activity to an already hectic "week before Christmas rush;" the children will not have left for vacation yet, and since Santa Claus makes his appearance in November, getting the children involved in a pageant early in December puts emphasis on the true meaning of Christmas at the very beginning.

OPTIONAL IDEA: It may be fun to coordinate this pageant with other church committee activities, such as an annual December pot-luck dinner or a social committee cookie and punch party. Although you should not get involved with details (you have enough already) those committees might enjoy planning something for the same evening.

OPTIONAL IDEA: You may want to use the youth choir for one of the musical selections.

— *Karyl J. Garner*

1 *(Swedish “beds” are in place. Organist plays a prelude.)*

2 **NARRATOR A:** At the same time came the disciples unto
3 Jesus, saying, “who is the greatest in the kingdom of
4 heaven?” And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set
5 him in the midst of them, and said, “Verily I say unto you,
6 except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye
7 shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever
8 therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same
9 is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall
10 receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.”
11 Matthew 18:1-5, King James Version.

12 **NARRATOR B:** Listen closely world. Do you hear the
13 children? From all over the world their voices blend. They
14 are not different, these children in God’s world, they are
15 the same. They feel pain and they hunger. They laugh and
16 they cry. They sing and they dance. Together, these
17 children teach us of peace and love. *(Congregation sings,*
18 *“Jesus Loves the Little Children.” See page ten. Remain seated.*
19 *Processional during song, all except Lucia and Candles Snuffers.)*

20 **NARRATOR A:** The anticipation in a child’s eyes, the
21 sparkling merriment from a child’s heart, and the words
22 of praise from the child’s sweet song, all emerge to
23 proclaim the birth of the Child, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

24 **NARRATOR B:** Christmas celebrations and traditions of the
25 world’s Christian children may differ, but the message
26 remains the same: Joy to the world, our Lord is come!
27 *(Congregation sings, “Joy to the World.” Remain seated.*
28 *NARRATORS A and B return to seats during song, and*
29 *NARRATORS C and D advance to lectern.)*

30 **NARRATOR C:** The anniversary of the birth of Jesus is the
31 happiest celebration of the year. The Messiah’s birthday
32 and the Good News of Easter are the most distinctive,
33 solemn events to occur for all mankind.

34 **NARRATOR D:** This holy anniversary is celebrated in
35 Christian nations all over the world. Tonight, in our magic

1 aircraft, we'll visit some of those countries. You will see
 2 just a few of the many traditions that children eagerly
 3 look forward to. And, you will hear some of the traditional
 4 music that children never get tired of singing. So polish
 5 off your imaginations and "bon voyage!"

6 **NARRATOR C:** One word of caution: due to the speed of our
 7 adventure, it is necessary that you hold onto your
 8 partner's hand and stay with your tour guide. We do not
 9 want any lost parents. The aircraft is ready, so welcome
 10 aboard. *(Congregation sings, "O Come All Ye Faithful." Remain*
 11 *seated. During song, SWEDISH FAMILY takes places and*
 12 *pantomimes sleep on Centerstage. NARRATORS C and D return*
 13 *to seats, and NARRATORS E and F advance to lectern.)*

14 **NARRATOR E:** This should be an interesting and exciting
 15 trip. I enjoy learning about kids from other nations. Did
 16 you know they celebrated Christmas differently?

17 **NARRATOR F:** No, I just figured that we did it all the same.
 18 I'll tell you what — hook up your seat belt, hang onto
 19 your ticket, and let's take off. Our first stop this evening
 20 is Sweden. It's located in Northern Europe, and is one of
 21 the Scandinavian countries.

22 **NARRATOR E:** In Sweden, December 13th is the shortest
 23 and darkest day of the year. The children begin the
 24 countdown to Christmas by celebrating the traditional
 25 Festival of Light on Lucia Day.

26 **NARRATOR F:** There is a story that tells of Lucia, a beautiful
 27 Christian maiden. She was persecuted by the Roman
 28 Emperor because she refused to give up her Christian
 29 faith.

30 **NARRATOR E:** Missionaries went to Sweden and told the
 31 story of Lucia. To the Swedish people, it showed such
 32 great inner strength and deep faith that they have kept
 33 the story as part of their traditional Christmas time
 34 celebration. Legend tells that St. Lucia gives gifts of food
 35 to the poor and needy during this time of year.

(LUCIA, carrying her tea set, and CANDLE SNUFFERS enter slowly from the back of the church during the following narration or during the optional special music.)

NARRATOR F: The villages and churches select a young lady to be Lucia for their Festival of Light celebration. She wears a long white dress with a red sash, and in her hair is a crown of evergreens and lighted candles. Now since that could be dangerous, Lucia is attended by several fellows with candle snuffers. Everyone is delighted to get a glimpse of Lucia. *(Optional special music if you happen to have a young soloist to sing Lucia)*

NARRATOR E: Besides the large festivals, each Swedish family also celebrates Lucia Day in their own home. They select a daughter to portray Lucia.

NARRATOR F: What if there aren't any girls in the family?

NARRATOR E: In that case, the honor is given to the mother. Anyway, at dawn on the twelfth day before Christmas, Lucia begins to sing to wake up her family. Then she serves them a breakfast of hot coffee and fresh, warm, homemade saffron buns. *(LUCIA and FAMILY pantomime the wake up and serving of food)*

NARRATOR F: Hmmm, I can almost smell them now. Sweden also has a tradition for the Christmas tree. December 22nd is the special day to bring in the tree and set it in the middle of the living room. Then on Christmas Eve, the family joins hands in a circle around the tree and sings their favorite Christmas carols. *(Congregation sings, "The First Noel," or "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella," or "Angels We Have Heard on High." [All are of French origin] Remain seated. LUCIA and FAMILY set up the small tree, perhaps each can add an ornament, then join hands and slowly circle tree during song. NARRATORS E and F return to seats, NARRATORS G and H advance to lectern. Organist can play a refrain for clean-up of scene. LUCIA and FAMILY can be seated.)*

- 1 **NARRATOR G:** OK everybody, we're back on our aircraft for
 2 a short jaunt to a country south of our own border.
- 3 **NARRATOR H:** That's right! Hang onto your sombreros folks,
 4 we're touching down in warm, sunny Mexico. Olé!
- 5 **NARRATOR G:** On December 16th, the children of Mexico
 6 begin to celebrate Christmas by acting out the journey
 7 of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The story is about
 8 their search for a *posada* or lodging. Carrying figures of
 9 Mary and Joseph, the procession of boys and girls, called
 10 pilgrims, wind through the streets of their Mexican
 11 village. They approach a house . . . (*The PILGRIMS leave*
 12 *their seats, form a procession, and move to the first "house."* *The*
 13 *organ can provide traveling music most effectively as the cast*
 14 *lines up and moves along. A softly played "Mexican Hat Dance"*
 15 *tune can set a festive mood. Knock three times.)*
- 16 **INNKEEPER 1:** Sí, what do you want?
- 17 **PILGRIM:** Please, I ask for shelter. Mary is so tired and
 18 cannot travel any longer.
- 19 **INNKEEPER 1:** Go away, go away. This is no inn. There is no
 20 posada, no room here.
- 21 **NARRATOR H:** The pilgrims shake their heads sadly and
 22 move on to the next house. (*Organ provides same traveling*
 23 *music as PILGRIMS advance to next house. Knock three times.)*
- 24 **INNKEEPER 2:** Sí, what do you want?
- 25 **PILGRIM:** Please, I ask for shelter. Mary is so tired and
 26 cannot travel any longer.
- 27 **INNKEEPER 2:** Go away, go away. This is no inn. There is no
 28 posada, no room here.
- 29 **NARRATOR H:** The pilgrims shake their heads sadly and
 30 move on to the next house . . . (*Organ provides same traveling*
 31 *music as PILGRIMS move to next house. Knock three times.)*
- 32 **INNKEEPER 3:** Buenos días. May I help you?
- 33 **PILGRIM:** Please, I ask for shelter. Mary is so tired and
 34 cannot travel any longer.
- 35 **INNKEEPER 3:** Welcome, welcome to this humble dwelling.

- 1 **NARRATOR G:** The pilgrims enter the house to celebrate the
 2 **success of their search for a lodging. They can see the**
 3 **nativity in a place of honor, but the manger is empty.**
 4 *(PILGRIMS enter house and sit on floor to pantomime excitement*
 5 *of piñata breaking.)*
- 6 **NARRATOR H:** Before ending this first evening of *Las*
 7 *Posadas*, the children break the traditional piñata which
 8 **is filled with candy and sweet treats.** *(The INNKEEPER*
 9 *holds the piñata and a child is chosen to break the piñata —*
 10 *pretend to break the piñata. PILGRIMS wave goodbye to*
 11 *INNKEEPER and exit to edge of Centerstage. Organ plays*
 12 *traveling music during the piñata pantomime.)*
- 13 **NARRATOR G:** In this manner, the celebration of *Las*
 14 *Posadas* continues for nine days. Each night the pilgrims
 15 **seek a room for Mary and Joseph. Each night as they**
 16 **enter the last dwelling, the manger is still empty.**
- 17 **NARRATOR H:** But on *Noche Buena*, the Good Night of the
 18 **24th of December, after meeting with failure at several**
 19 **inns, the pilgrims are finally welcomed at a *posada*.** They
 20 **enter the lodging and on this last night of *Las Posadas***
 21 **there is a difference. The nativity is now complete. The**
 22 **Christ Child is asleep in the manger.** *(Organ plays until*
 23 *PILGRIMS or CHILDREN sit on steps in front of manger or*
 24 *surround manger and two of the Mexican PILGRIMS lay the*
 25 *baby in the manger. PILGRIMS [or small children] sing, “Away*
 26 *in a Manger,” one verse. Organ plays refrain as set is cleared,*
 27 *PILGRIMS return to seats, NARRATORS G and H return to*
 28 *seats and NARRATORS I and J advance to lectern.)*
- 29 **NARRATOR I:** Adios Amigos. Thank you for showing us your
 30 **Christmas tradition!**
- 31 **NARRATOR J:** Fasten up your seat belts, moms and dads.
 32 **We’re heading across the Atlantic Ocean again.**
- 33 **NARRATOR I:** What a fast trip this evening! If you look out
 34 **your window, you can see Italy below us already. The**
 35 **families of Italy gather together on Christmas Eve and sit**

1 around the fireplace and watch the yule log burn. After
2 eating their supper, they enjoy a dessert called *Torrone*
3 (*Pronounced: Tor row nee*) which is a mixture of honey and
4 nuts. Then they all attend church.

5 **NARRATOR J:** The children of Italy do not receive gifts on
6 Christmas Day, but rather on January 6th, or Epiphany.
7 Perhaps this makes sense, for Epiphany reminds us of
8 the Three Wise Men who came to Bethlehem bearing gifts
9 of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

10 **NARRATOR I:** There is a legend in Italy about the Magi and
11 a little, old woman named Befana. It seems that Befana
12 lived in a small cottage by the road where caravans of
13 camels passed by. (*BEFANA takes her place and begins to*
14 *sweep. the MAGI enter and approach the cottage. The action can*
15 *occur during the narration, or during organ traveling music of*
16 *"We Three Kings" at this point.*)

17 **NARRATOR J:** On the eve of January 6th, or Epiphany, three
18 richly dressed men knocked on her door. They told
19 Befana of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and of following
20 a bright star.

21 **MAGUS 1:** We invite you to come with us.

22 **BEFANA:** (*Thumping her broom*) Can't you see that I am busy
23 sweeping?

24 **MAGUS 2:** Do come with us to see the infant Jesus.

25 **MAGUS 3:** We are taking gifts to him. Surely you have some
26 little gift for him?

27 **BEFANA:** (*Shaking broom*) When I finish sweeping, I must
28 bring in the wood. (*The MAGI move along. Enter*
29 *SHEPHERD.*)

30 **NARRATOR I:** So the Wise Men departed. Later, a shepherd
31 passed by and knocked on Befana's cottage door.

32 **SHEPHERD:** Come to Bethlehem with me and we will find
33 the Holy Babe and Mary and Joseph.

34 **BEFANA:** (*Shaking head "no"*) I am cooking supper now. In the
35 morning maybe I will have time to go.

1 **NARRATOR J:** Later that night a great light shone in Befana's
 2 window and she saw that the sky was filled with angels.
 3 It was then that she realized that something very
 4 important had happened at Bethlehem. (*BEFANA*
 5 *pantomimes action of the following narration, taking basket and*
 6 *broom when leaving cottage.*)

7 **NARRATOR I:** Determined to go, Befana packed a basket
 8 with a few toys, blew out the lamp, and left her cottage.
 9 But in the dark, she became lost and come morning, no
 10 one could tell her how to get to Bethlehem. She wandered
 11 and searched, wandered and searched . . .

12 **BEFANA:** I must find the Christ Child. Oh please, can you
 13 help me find Bethlehem? I must find the Baby Jesus.
 14 (*BEFANA asks her questions in the direction of the congregation,*
 15 *going part way down the aisle, searching.*)

16 **NARRATOR J:** According to the traditional story, Befana
 17 never found the infant Jesus and has searched in vain
 18 from that day on. Every year on the Eve of Epiphany, the
 19 night of the Three Kings, Befana with her broom and her
 20 basket of toys, goes from house to house in Italy asking . . .

21 **BEFANA:** Is he here? Is the Christ Child here? (*Congregation*
 22 *sings, "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Remain seated. If desired,*
 23 *MAGI can pantomime continued journey during song, then*
 24 *return to seats. BEFANA returns to seat. NARRATORS I and*
 25 *J return to seats, NARRATORS K and L advance to lectern.*)

26 **NARRATOR K:** As we lower the flaps and bring our airship
 27 back to the home runway, we hope that this little
 28 adventure has been meaningful to you. During this
 29 season of traditional good will, we wanted to introduce
 30 you to your Christian neighbors. For all over the world,
 31 in every Christian nation and in every Christian family,
 32 the children eagerly await their own special Christmas
 33 traditions.

34 **NARRATOR L:** These Christmas traditions occur year after
 35 year after year. And in this everchanging, confusing world,

1 these traditions are constant and permit the child to
2 know the neverchanging eternal love of our Heavenly
3 Father and to experience the excitement of the birth of
4 our Savior.

5 **NARRATOR K:** Yes, the traditions are different. The various
6 forms of these celebrations may occur on St. Nicholas
7 Day, or Boxing Day, or the Feast of St. Stephen; on
8 Christmas Day, or New Years Day, or on the Eve of
9 Epiphany. The various treasures of the season may come
10 in Christmas stockings, or wooden shoes, from near a
11 manger or from under a tree.

12 **NARRATOR L:** But, from this world of differences in tradition,
13 there exists only one star, and the bright light from that
14 star binds all of the Christian children of the world into
15 one. The story of that star is found in one book.

16 **NARRATOR K:** In many different nations, the children reach
17 for that one book. In different languages the children
18 ask for, and listen to, that one story. The story of that
19 bright star is forever written on the child's heart and
20 soul; it is the greatest story ever told . . . (*Organ provides*
21 *traveling music to set up live nativity with Mary, Joseph, Angels,*
22 *Shepherds, Magi, using, "Silent Night."* The entire cast should
23 surround the nativity or sit on steps in front of it. **NARRATORS**
24 **K and L** join cast, **NARRATOR M** advances to the lectern. Do
25 not sing until after scripture.)

26 **NARRATOR M:** And it came to pass in those days, that there
27 went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the
28 world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made
29 when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to
30 be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also
31 went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into
32 Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;
33 because he was of the house and lineage of David; to be
34 taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with
35 child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days



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