



SCRIPT/MUSIC

2.

An Angel Appeared to Them: A Christmas drama for children and adults

Adapted from the script
BY BARBARA VOS

Cast/Participants in Speaking Order

Hannah (a young girl)	Zechariah
Nathan (her older brother)	Gabriel
Father	Mary
Mother	Angel A
Narrators [7] (<i>taken by children</i>)	Joseph

Scene settings for the program: The family scene is set up on one side of the platform/stage, while the action scenes with the angels takes place on the other side. A spotlight from a local school can help shift attention from one scene to another.

OPENING SONG sung by Cast: "Let My Soul Sing"

VOICES

Let My Soul Sing!

Music and Adapted Lyrics:
David Luna

Opening - Entire Cast

Arr.:

David Luna

Tropical Style (♩ = @100)



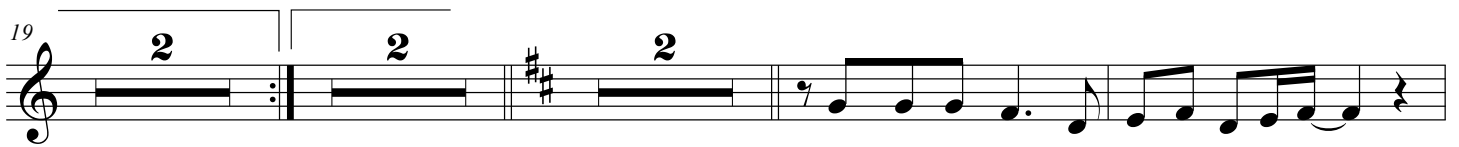
(v1.) From realms of Glo - ry, an - gels came to earth,
 (v2.) The an - gels sang the great ness of his name!
 (v3.) The an - gels told the great ness of his might!

9

to tell the news of Je - sus at His birth! Of how He came as
 And told the world of deeds that He has done; His mer cy is from
 The King of kings, the one we glo ri fy! — Oh! Hal - le - lu - jah!

12

prom ised in his Word; this God our Sav ior in whom we now re-joice!
 age to age the same; We praise his name; the Lord, the Might - y One.
 An - gels praise His name! Born in a man-ger He shall be lift - ed high.



(v4.)Let my soul sing the glo-ries of his Word!



Firm is his prom-ise, and his mer-cy sure. Let my soul sing the great-ness of the Lord

To stage positions:



to chil-dren's chil - dren _____ for - ev - er more!

Scene 1

[Family is in their living room around the Christmas tree.
Parents and children are hanging ornaments on the tree.]

Hannah: This is the last one.

Nathan: Dad, it's time for you to put the angel on the top of the tree. . . .

Father: Hannah, will you hand it to me? Hannah: Here it is, Dad.

[Father places angel on the top of the tree. Family stands back and admires the tree.]

Hannah: Dad, why do we put an angel on the top of tree?

Father: Good question, Hannah. We put it there because angels are all over the Christmas story. Let's take a look. Where's a Bible?

[Family sits down; Mother brings the Bible.]

Mother: Did you know that the word angel means "messenger"? Angels are messengers God sends from the heavenly realm to give people on earth a message from him.

Father: Let's begin with what I'll call the Angel of Preparation.

Cast sings: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

4.
VOICES

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

For Children's Chorus

Text: Charles Wesley
(1701-1788)

Music: David Luna

Gently (♩ = @81)

The musical score is written for a children's chorus in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Gently' with a quarter note equal to 81 beats per minute. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by a 3-measure rest, and then the melody. The lyrics are: (v.1) Come, thou long ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to [v.2) Born thy] peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a set thy peo-ple free; from our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee. child and yet a King, born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de- By thine own e-ter-nal spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone; by thine The third staff continues with lyrics: sire of eve-ry na-tion, joy of eve-ry long-ing heart. all suf-fi-cient mer-it, raise us to thy glo-ri'ous The fourth staff concludes with lyrics: (v.2.) Born thy throne! The score includes various rests and repeat signs, with measure numbers 11, 17, 26, and 33 indicated.

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Scene 2: The Angel of Preparation

[Zechariah comes into the temple from the left and begins to pray by the altar (a table with a bowl on it). He stops praying when the angel appears. The angel comes in from the right.]

Narrator 1: In the time of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth. Together they lived honorably before God, careful in keeping to the ways of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. But they had no children, and they were both quite old.

Gabriel: Don't fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You're going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He'll achieve great stature with God—he'll get the people ready for God."

Zechariah: “Do you expect me to believe this? I’m an old man and my wife is an old woman.”

Gabriel: “I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news. But because you won’t believe me, you’ll be unable to say a word until the day of your son’s birth. Every word I’ve spoken to you will come true on time—*God’s* time.”

[Spotlight switches to family]

Mother: And Zechariah was unable to speak until the day he named his newborn son “John”. Then Zechariah was filled with joy and praised God with a song he wrote; in fact, we call it the “Song of Zechariah”.

Children and Congregation sings: “Blessed Be the God of Israel” [MERLE’S TUNE]

VOICES

Blest Be the God of Israel

For Children's Choir

Lyrics:
Michael A. Perry
Music:
Hal H. Hopson
Arr.: David Luna

(♩ = 112) 7

(v.1)Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us
(v.2)Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has
(v3.)On those who live in dark - ness the sun be - gins to

12

free, who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty. The proph - ets spoke of
come, a Sav - iour who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home. Be - fore him goes his
rise, the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up on the sin - ner's eyes, to guide the feet of

18

mer - cy, of res - cue and re - lease; God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to
her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way, the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the
pil - grims a - long the paths of peace. Oh bless our God and Sav - iour with

23

bring the gift of peace.
mes - sen - ger of day.
songs that nev - er cease!

6.

Nathan: I remember another story of an angel. The angel who came to Mary.

Father: Yes. That's the angel I will call the Angel of Hope.

Scene 3: The Angel of Hope

[Scene changes to Mary standing at the table preparing food.
The angel quietly enters from the right and comes to her.]

Gabriel: Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you.

Narrator 2: Mary was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her,

Gabriel: "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever— no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Mary: But how? I'm not married yet.

Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will do it!

Mary: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say. [Mary bows her head]

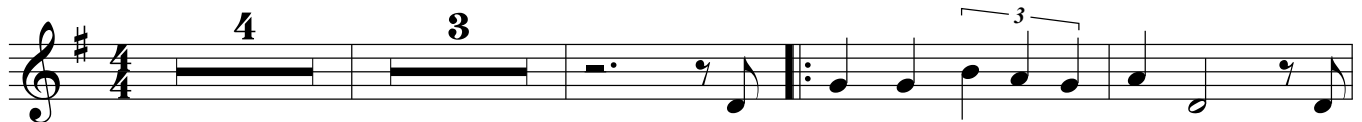
Children/Cast sing: "He Came Down That We May Have Hope"

VOICES

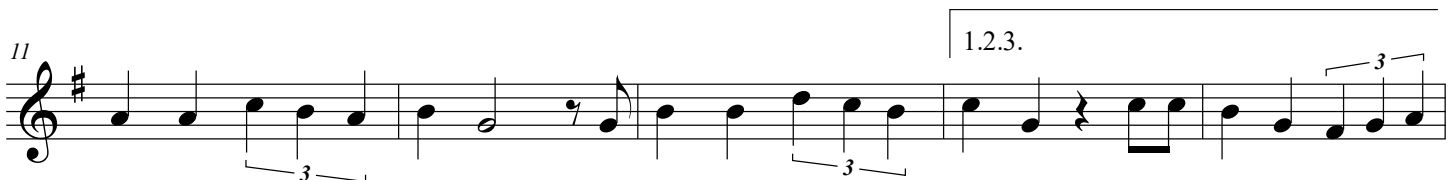
He Came Down For Children's Choir

Music:
Traditional Cameroon Melody
Transcribed by John Bell

Arr.: David Luna



(v1.)He came down that we may have love; He
(v2.)He came down that we may have hope; He
(v3.)He came down that we may have joy; He
(v4.)He came down that we may have peace; He



came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love, Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er -
came down that we may have hope; He came down that we may have hope, Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er -
came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy, Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er -
came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may _____

1.2.3. *Last time*

16 (Why did he come?)

more! (v2.)He have peace, Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er - more! Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er -
 more! (v3.)He
 more! (v4.)He

21

more! Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er - more!

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Scene 4: The Angel of Reassurance

[Spotlight returns to family]

Nathan: I remember another angel—the angel that came to Joseph.

Father: That’s right. This part of the story is found in the book of Matthew. You know, I sometimes wonder just how Joseph felt.

[Scene changes to Joseph sleeping]

Narrator 3: The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came together Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn’t know that.) Joseph, bothered but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream in which God’s angel spoke.

[Angel appears next to Joseph]

Angel A: “Joseph, don’t hesitate to get married. Mary’s pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God’s Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—‘God saves’—because he will save his people from their sins.”

Narrator 4: Joseph woke up and did exactly what God’s angel commanded in the dream. He married Mary and named the baby Jesus.

Soloist/Cast sing: “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

8.
VOICES

Jesus, Name Above All Names

For Children's Choir

Music and Lyrics:
Naida Hearn
Arr.: David Luna

(♩. = @52)

11

(v1.)Je - sus.	Name a-bove	all names,	Beau - ti - ful	Sav - ior,	glo - ri - ous
(v2.)Je - sus.	Lov - ing	Shep - herd,	Vine of the	branch - es,	Son ____ of
(v3.)Praise him!	Lord a-bove	all lords.	King a-bove	all kings.	God's on - ly

17

Lord, _____	Em - ma - nu - el,	God ____ is	with ____ us,	Bless - ed Re -
God, _____	Prince of Peace,	Won - der - ful	Coun - se - lor,	Lord of the
Son. _____	The Prince of Peace,	who by his	Spir - it	comes to live

23

deem - er,	liv - ing	Word. _____	Friend. _____
u - ni - verse,	Light of the	world. _____	
in ____ us;	Mas - ter and		

To stage positions:

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[Spotlight returns to family]

Nathan: [pointing to angel on the top of the tree] My favorite part of the Christmas story is the angels announcing to the shepherds that Jesus was born.

Mother: Me too! There are so many songs written about this wonderful announcement. I really like the song, “O Come All You Faithful.” The first stanza reminds us that the baby in the manger is the King of angels! The second part is the song of the angel choir that the shepherds heard.

Father: I think it’s wonderful to remember that God sent special messengers to shepherds. Shepherds were just ordinary people. God wanted us to know that he loves everyone.

Hannah: Let’s sing that song!

Children and congregation sing: “O Come, All You Faithful”

VOCAL

O Come All Ye Faithful

For Children's Chorus

Music and Lyrics:
C. Frederick Oakeley

Arr. David Luna

11

(v1.) O come, all ye faith - ful, — joy - ful and tri -
(v2.) Sing, choirs of an - gels, — sing in ex - ul -

16

um - phant, O come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be -
ta - tion; O sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of hea - ven a - bove! Glo - ry to

22

hold him, born the King of an - gels; O come, let us a - dore him, — O
God, all — glo - ry in the high - est;

27

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore — him — Christ — the

32

Lord! O come, let us a - dore — him — Christ — the Lord. —

39

1.

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Scene 5: The Angels' Announcement

[Center stage. Shepherds are lying and sitting around a "fire"
(perhaps a flashlight under some twigs). Only the light of the fire illuminates the stage.]

Narrator 5: For the census Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While

10.

they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

Narrator 6: There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified.

[Angel B appears, spotlight on angel]

Angel B: Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

Narrator 7: At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

*Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.*

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherders were impressed.

Children sing, then everyone joins in on "Joy To The World"

VOICES

Joy To The World

For Children's Choir

G. F. Handel

Arr: David Luna

Isaac Watts (1719)

Joyfully (♩ = 90)



1. Joy to the world the Lord is come Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth the Sa - vior reigns Let all their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -



ceive her King _____ Let eve - ry heart _____ pre - pare Him room _____ And
songs em - ploy _____ While fields and floods _____ Rocks hills and plains _____ Re -
fest the ground. _____ He comes to make _____ His bles - sings flow _____ Far



heaven and na - ture sing And heaven and na - ture sing And
peat the sound - ing _____ joy Re - peat the sound - ing _____ joy Re -
as the curse is _____ found! Far as the curse is _____ found! Far

31


 hea-ven and hea - ven and na - ture sing _____
 peat _____ re - peat _____ the sound - ing joy _____
 as _____ far as _____ the curse is found! _____

38


 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And

46


 makes the na - tions prove _____ The glo - ries of _____ His right - eous - ness _____ And

54


 won - ders of His love And won - ders of His love And won - ders won - ders

60


 of His love And won - ders won - ders of His love

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[Spotlight returns to family]

Father: There is one more angel to talk about. A couple years after Jesus was born, three scholar kings, who we call the wisemen, believed Jesus was a very special king, so they traveled a long way to worship him and give him gifts.

Mother: When they arrived they first talked to Herod. They told him about their desire to give gifts to this new king. The fact that there was another king people were traveling to his country to meet made King Herod very angry and he ordered his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys in Bethlehem that might be this new king.

Father: God protected little King Jesus' life by sending an angel that appeared to Joseph in a dream. This angel told Joseph to take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. That very night, they got up and left for Egypt.

Mother: Isn't it wonderful how God carefully protected baby Jesus? God loves us so much. God made sure that Jesus would live so that he could bring us salvation.

Soloist sings: "Meekness and Majesty"

12.
VOICES

Meekness And Majesty

For Children's Choir

Music and Lyrics:
Graham Kendrick

Arr.: David Luna

♩ = @ 72

4

(v1.) Meek-ness and maj-es-ty, Man-hood and de-i-ty,
(v2) Wis-dom un-search-a-ble, God the in-vis-i-ble,

9
in per-fect har-mo-ny; the Man who is God. Lord of e-ter-ni-ty dwells in hu-
Love in-de-struct-i-ble gent-ly ap-pears. Fath-er's pure ra-di-ance, per-fect in

16
man-i-ty; kneels in hu-mil-i-ty and wash-es our feet. O what a mys-ter-y,
in-no-cence; yet learns o-be-di-ence to death on a cross.

23
meek-ness and maj-es-ty! Bow down and wor-ship. For this

31
1. 2 6
is your God. God.

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[Spotlight returns to family]

Nathan: Are there any more angels in Jesus' story?

Father: Not in the Christmas part of the story, but yes - they do show up other places in his story - and ours, too! The book of Revelation promises that one day all who follow Jesus, humans and angels, will sing together about how great it is to live in his love.

Congregation sings MEDLEY: "O Come All Ye Faithful" / "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

O Come All Ye Faithful/ Hark The Herald Angels Sing

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Att.: C. Frederick Oakeley

"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

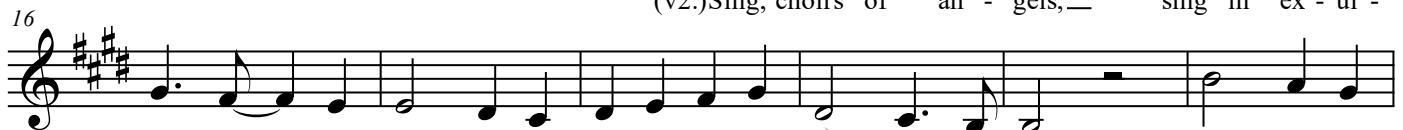
Charles Wesley/Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Arr. David Luna

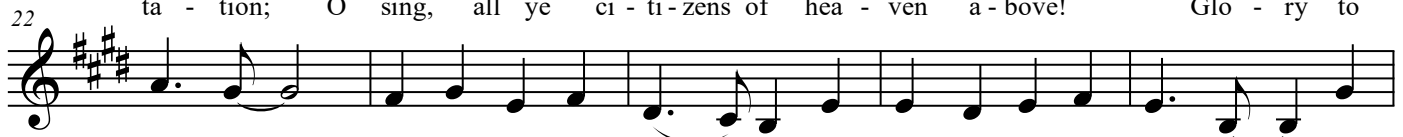
Lively! (♩ = @120)



(v1.) O come, all ye faith - ful, — joy - ful and tri -
(v2.) Sing, choirs of an - gels, — sing in ex - ul -



um - phant, O come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be -
ta - tion; O sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of hea - ven a - bove! Glo - ry to



hold him, born the King of an - gels; O come, let us a - dore him, — O
God, all — glo - ry in the high - est;



come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore — him — Christ — the



Lord! O come, let us a - dore — him — Christ — the Lord.



(v1.) Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new - born King!
(v2.) Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace. Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness.



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - onciled." Joy - ful all ye
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings. Mild He lays His

14.



na - tions rise! Join the tri-umph of the skies! With th'an - gel - ic hosts proclaim,
glo - ry by, — Born that man no more may die. — Born to raise the sons of earth,



"Christ is — born in Beth - le-hem!" Hark the her - ald an - gelssing, "Glo - ry — to the
Born to — give them sec - ondbirth. Hark, the her - ald an - gelssing, "Glo - ry — to the



new-born King!" new - born King!" —

Prayer / Dismissal

Props List:

FAMILY ROOM:

General miscellaneous living room items as needed; family chair, throw rug, etc.

Christmas Tree

Ornaments for hanging

Angel Tree Topper

Big Bible

BIBLE SCENES:

Table (altar)

Bowl for the table (Zechariah)

Food prep items (Mary)

Optional floor bedding for Joseph

Campfire (Shepherds) [Suggested flashlight over some twigs]

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

LONGVIEW

EPC

presents....



December 13th
5:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Adapted From a Script by
BARBARA VOS