

Christmas Round the Back Door

a Gathered Pageant

by

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The Background to Your Pageant

The congregation has been invited to come costumed as any character they wish, in the nativity story. A box of costumes is available for children and adults to choose from and wear immediately, when they enter the church. Scripture can be one person who stands for the entire pageant at a lectern, or it could be a character who has just arrived on the scene each time. See below.

The Main Characters: "One" - a servant youth -singing, acting, speaking role
"Two" - a servant youth - singing, acting, speaking role

Nativity Characters: Innkeeper - speaking part
3 Kings - mute acting, one read line
Shepherds (as many as you wish) - mute acting
Angels - mute acting, anthem or Gloria-singing

Optional: Liturgical "Host" (could easily be one of the Servants) - invites costumed congregation members to join the scene.
"Scripture" teller or reader - stays at the lectern throughout the pageant. Job could be filled by one of the Nativity Characters (see the script)

The Scene

A stable (of course). Stable is prepared so that there are seats at centre stage for Mary and Joseph, there is an area for Angels, Shepherds and Kings.

Host (posted at one lectern or side of stage) explains that a story will unfold and that there will come times when those in the congregation who are dressed as story characters will be invited to come sit up on the stage.

Shepherds take their place in the stable. If they are a children's choir or Sunday school group, they may sing a prepared song. Host invites all shepherds and sheep to join the group at the front.

Lights down

Scripture Teller/Reader or Shepherd (Lk 2:15-19)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger, When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Lights up

Congregation sings <i>The First Nowell, verses 1&2, (VU 91)</i>

Knocking is heard

Innkeeper's voice: I've had enough of this! I'm telling you there's no room! No room at all! Absolutely N-- oh! Excuse me! I didn't realize who I was speaking to. Welcome to my humble abode. I, I, I am honoured that royalty should come to my inn. Of course there's room for such wealthy - I mean - noble guests. I can throw out a few nobodies to make room for you and your camels.

Wise One's voice: No, thank-you. We seek a king, born today.

Innkeeper's voice: Well, sure! We can find one of those around here. Come in my front door...

Second Wise One's voice: The child is to be found in a lowly place. Perhaps a stable?

Innkeeper's voice: Nonsense! Come this way. Please!

Three Magi make their way down the aisle, followed by a fussing Innkeeper. Magi make their way to the baby, kneel down and present their gifts. Innkeeper watches nonplussed.

Innkeeper (somewhat hushed, to the Servants): What's going on out here? Who are all these people and animals and birds?

Lights down

Bible Teller/Reader or Wise One (from Mt2)

Then magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king? Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search for this child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and