

Newscaster Christmas Pageant

Notes: There are 11 characters in this pageant, if your church has more participants, you could easily add barn animals, extra shepherds, angels, and switch reporters more often. If you have less, you can look through and see which parts you could eliminate or give to the same participant.

In the pageant, when the characters talk to each other, it has their role listed but you should substitute that for the participant's name.

Feel free to add any dialogue or jokes into the scenes that you wish, this can be an outline to make it easier for you to write your own. You can also switch out the songs if these aren't the normal ones your church does.

For recording, you can either have folks film it at their houses and stitch them together (video editing software is easy to use and standard on many computers) or you can have them in a zoom room and hide non-video participants so you only see the ones speaking when you're recording.

Cast:

Newscaster-
Reporter 1-
Reporter 2-
Weatherperson-
Traffic News-
Innkeeper-
Mary -
Joseph-
Shepherd(s)-
Angel-
Heavenly hosts-

Welcome to Near East News sign
(Newscaster sits at a desk)

Newscaster: Well folks, we've got some exciting, breaking news tonight! We'll be going live to the streets in a few moments to tell you the exciting news from what's coming in... Reporter, can you fill us in on what's happening out there?

Reporter 1: It's been a wild night here on the streets of Bethlehem! I've got several interviews to do to be able to tell you the whole story. First, we'll meet a local innkeeper... Innkeeper, can you tell us how this whole thing got started?

Innkeeper: well reporter, it all started when Caesar made that announcement for everyone to go to their hometown to be counted for the census. With so many people on the move, all the inns filled up pretty quickly.

Reporter 1: oh yes, the census has thrown everybody into a frenzy.

Innkeeper: oh for sure. Well, we'd filled up and it was getting late when this couple stopped in to ask for a room. I told them we didn't have any but the man insisted, saying his wife was about to go into labor. I felt so bad for them, she looked so young ya know? I knew all the other inns were full so I gave them a spot in the barn, it was with the animals but at least it was warm and dry.

Reporter 1: ah, very kind of you to make some space for them, even in this busy season. Thank you for giving us the beginning of the story Innkeeper.

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Newscaster: thanks for bringing us the beginning of the story reporter! Now we'll go over to traffic to hear more about how the census is affecting the roads. Traffic, how are things looking out there?

Traffic: well newscaster, we've got a 5 camel pile up on the main road into Bethlehem and miles of donkeys leading in and out of the city. You should expect your commute to take at least one day longer than usual. We've got everyone and their mother trying to get back to their hometowns and there is WAY more traffic than we're used to seeing!

Newscaster: thank you traffic, you've heard it folks! Plan at least an extra day as you're moving to your hometowns or you might end up like that couple we heard about in Bethlehem without a place to stay, stuck behind camels on the road! And now, we'll head back to Bethlehem to hear from the young couple themselves. Reporter, back to you

Reporter 2: I'm here with Mary and Joseph, the couple who had to stay in the manger. Joseph, tell me more about the events leading up to you sleeping with the animals.

Joseph: since the baby decided to come, we're not doing much sleeping but I'll tell you how we ended up here... we'd planned it all out, we were going to get back to Bethlehem right before the baby was due, be counted, and head back home but the baby clearly had other plans! So a few days ago, we're on the road and Mary grabs me and says "Joseph! It's time!" and I say "I know, I know, we'll be there soon. Stop stressing" but she says, "No! It's time for the baby! Right now!"

Mary: (rolls her eyes) he's so dense sometimes. I mean my water broke and the baby was coming! We did not have time to do anything else and we hadn't even gotten a room yet!

Joseph: right, so I ran to the nearest inn to ask for a room but they said everything was full so I had to explain that we needed something NOW and they found us a spot in the manger. I wouldn't give it 5 stars but it wasn't bad.

Reporter 2: well I'd imagine at that point it didn't matter as long as you had some place. Mary, were you stressed to have to give birth in a barn?

Mary: it wasn't my ideal birth plan but it was actually a very easy labor and once he was born, it was very funny but all the animals crowded around to see him. It's like they knew he was special. And even though we didn't have a proper crib or anything, he was a beautiful little baby.

[if you have more kids/ youth than cast members listed, it would be easy to add some animals to talk about how great the baby is]

Song: Away in a Manger

Reporter 2: thank you Mary, sounds like quite the experience! Glad you found a cozy place to stay. With that, we'll go back to you newscaster.

Newscaster: speaking of experiences, it seems that multiple people are having some interesting weather, we'll turn it over to you weatherperson for more details...

Weather: Thanks newscaster! I know I usually bring all of you news of rain or sun but tonight we've got some strange astronomical occurrences that fall under my job more than anyone else so here I am! I wanted to give you a heads up about a strange star hovering just over Bethlehem and shining far brighter than usual, it seems that the star just stopped over the city and from the other eyewitnesses we've heard tonight, it sounds like it might be related to that baby that was just born. I'll keep you updated on any other signs or stars but that's it for now. Back to you Newscaster!

Newscaster: We're going to continue with the unexplained events for tonight and we've got a reporter in the field quite literally for our next interview

Reporter 1: Thanks Newscaster, I'm here with some local shepherds who have had quite the scare tonight. Shepherd, tell us more

Shepherd: it started out as a normal enough night. We were just watching over the flock, having a little snack when all of a sudden, this... thing... popped up out of nowhere. It's kind of hard to describe what it looked like actually, we'd never seen anything like it. It was kind of scary but also kind of beautiful in a way.

Reporter 1: What did it do?

Shepherd: well... [flashback scene] angel "don't be afraid" but that was pretty hard to do. Angel "I have good news, the the savior had been born in that small town of Bethlehem. you should go find him wrapped up in blankets in a manger" that was all pretty confusing but we figured we should go check it out just in case

Reporter 1: that is some exciting news!

Shepherd: it was and then it got weirder. Some of it's friends popped up and they all said [flashback] "glory to God and people to all people on earth!" so then we rushed off to Bethlehem to see if it was true

Song: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Reporter 1: You've heard it in the fields first folks, I'm going to get back to Bethlehem to see this baby for myself!

Newscaster: thanks reporter, that is definitely some exciting news! I think we're all going to follow you and see for ourselves too! We're telling everyone about this great news and advising everyone to spread the word! Now, let's get to Bethlehem to see this savior for ourselves!

[scene of everyone together in zoom room with Mary showing off her baby]

Mary: what a night! This beautiful baby of mine is already changing lives. I'm going to hold onto this moment forever (smiles)

Final song: Go Tell It on the Mountain