

Christmas Program 2023

Welcome: Today we welcome everyone to the God is So Good Christmas Program. We hope you enjoy relearning (rehearing, retelling?) this story with us.

Choirs:

SCENE 1

Processional Song: O Come all Ye Faithful

Narrator: God is so Good to us. God sent us Jesus, and Jesus brings us hope. We light the candle of hope to remind us that God is so good to us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Hope

Song: God is so Good - *God brings me hope, God brings me hope, God brings me hope, God brings hope for me, God is Good to Me.*

Narrator: God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a young woman pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The young woman's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

Angel: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Narrator: Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her,

Angel: "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Narrator: Mary said,

Mary: "How could this happen?"

Narrator: The angel answered,

Angel: "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called ^[b] the Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

Narrator: So Mary said,

Mary: "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."

Narrator: Then the angel left her.

SCENE 2

Narrator: God is so Good to us. God sent us Jesus, and Jesus brings us peace, so we light the candle of peace to remind us that God is so good to us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Peace

Song: God is so Good *God brings me peace, God brings me peace, God brings me peace, God brings peace for me.*

Narrator: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while ^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem, as a solo on an instrument

Narrator: Joseph went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Song: Away in a Manger, verse 1 & 2

SCENE 3

Narrator: God is so Good to us. God sent us Jesus, and Jesus brings us joy, so we light the candle of joy to remind us that God is so good to us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Joy

Song: God is so Good *God brings me joy, God brings me joy, God brings me joy, God brings joy to me.*

Narrator: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks 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,

Angel: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Song: Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain x2 and verse 1)

Narrator: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Angels: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Narrator: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Shepherds: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Narrator: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But *Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

Song: Go Tell It on the Mountain (refrain x2, and verse 1)

Narrator: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

SCENE 4

Narrator: God is so Good to us. God sent us Jesus, and Jesus brings us love, so we light the candle of love to remind us that God is so good to us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Love

Song: God is so Good *God brings me love, God brings me love, God brings me love, God brings love to me.*

Narrator: After the Magi had heard the king talk, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Song: We three Kings, verse 1

Narrator: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

SCENE 5

Narrator: God is so Good to us. God sent us Jesus, and Jesus is the Christ-Child, so we light the Christ candle to remind us that God is so good to us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Christ

Song: God is so Good *God brings me Christ, God brings me Christ, God brings me Christ, God brings Christ to me.*

Narrator: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Song: Silent Night, verse 1

Offering with Instrumentalist

Prayers written by 3rs-5th Graders

Lord's Prayer

Song: We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Announcements & Send Preschoolers/ Kindergartners to their families

Song: Joy to the World, verse 1, and then recess.