



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Join With All Creation In Celebrating The Birth Of Jesus

When Jesus was born there was joy on earth and in heaven. All of creation joined in celebrating this gift from God the Father. And we are invited to be a part of it.

Heaven and Nature Sing is an opportunity for your whole congregation to participate in praising and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Your participants will be challenged to adopt an attitude of praise and celebration through the following stories:

- *Gabriel's announcement to Mary
- *Mary's visit to Elizabeth
- *The angels announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds
- *The gifts of the Magi.

Heaven and Nature Sing combines worshipful narration, Bible readings, drama sketches, and (lots of) singing to create a fresh and joyful examination of the birth of our Savior. Heaven and Nature Sing Christmas Program can be used in conjunction with the 4-week elementary curriculum, or it can be used as a stand-alone production. The Christmas Program contains the same sketch content as the curriculum, but all other content is original.

This program runs approximately an hour in length, as follows:

INTRODUCTION – 5 minutes
SKETCH ONE – 4 minutes
WORSHIP ONE – 7 minutes
SKETCH TWO – 4 minutes
WORSHIP TWO – 9 minutes
SKETCH THREE – 4 minutes
WORSHIP THREE – 11 minutes
SKETCH FOUR – 5 minutes
WORSHIP FOUR – 11 minutes

A decorative border featuring musical notes and holly leaves is positioned along the top, right, and bottom edges of the page. The notes are black and vary in pitch and rhythm, while the holly leaves are green with red berries.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PROPS:

Clipboard
Table
Chairs
Snack foods

SPECIAL COSTUMES:

Robes for the angels

CHARACTERS

SKETCHES: 3M, 2F

Harold – an angel who fancies himself a singer
Phanuel – Harold's angel supervisor
Serafina – an angel
Daniel – an angel
Jordan – another angel supervisor

WORSHIP PROGRAM:

Speakers
Bible Readers

The number of Speakers and Bible Readers needed for the worship portion of the program is adjustable, depending on the number of people you have available. It can be done with as little as 2 (1 Speaker, 1 Bible Reader) or as many as 14 (9 Speakers and 5 Bible Readers).

All scriptures used are from the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible.

The page is decorated with musical notes and holly leaves. At the top left, a red banner contains the word 'INTRODUCTION'. At the top right, there are several musical notes. On the right side, there are more musical notes and a holly leaf with red berries. At the bottom left, there is a holly leaf with red berries. At the bottom right, there are musical notes and a holly leaf.

INTRODUCTION

BIBLE READER 1:

Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens
 and you waters above the skies.
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for at his command they were created,
and he established them for ever and ever—
 he issued a decree that will never pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
 stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
 small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all nations,
 you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women, old men and children.
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
And he has raised up for his people a horn,
 the praise of all his faithful servants,
 of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the Lord.
Psalm 148

SING: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

SPEAKER 1:

Our God is great and worthy to be praised. We join with all of creation in praising and celebrating the giver of life. From the mightiest ruler to the lowest peasant, from the cattle in the stall to the heavenly beings, we join them in honoring our Maker. Tonight we celebrate the Advent Season – that unique time each year where we take the opportunity to praise God for sending Jesus to earth as a baby. There was much celebrating that first Christmas.

-The Magi honored God with their gifts.

-The shepherds were so changed by their visit, they told everyone they saw about the encounter with Jesus.



INTRODUCTION



SPEAKER 1{CONT.}:

-Even before his birth, Mary's relative, Elizabeth, praised Jesus. And so did John, the baby still growing inside Elizabeth.

-And of course the angels in heaven rejoiced. The angels were very busy during this time, heralding Jesus' birth. It was an angel who told Elizabeth that she would finally have a son in her old age. It was an angel who told Mary that she would have God's son, even though she was still a virgin. An angel told Joseph that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. And it was angels who were there to tell the shepherds that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem.

A herald is a messenger, someone delivering news. There were many herald angels delivering good news that first Christmas. Speaking of Harold...

(Speaker 1 exits quickly as Phaniel enters)



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HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART ONE

Phanuel enters carrying a clipboard. He looks out at the audience.

PHANUEL: What a beautiful day to be up in heaven. Just like yesterday. And the day before. Well, they're all beautiful, now that I think about it.

Harold enters and rushes up to Phanuel.

HAROLD: Harold the Angel reporting for duty, sir.

PHANUEL: Ah, you must be the new transfer from Cloud 9.

HAROLD: Yes, sir.

PHANUEL: Oh, you don't have to be so formal. Just call me Phanuel. And what did you say your name was again?

HAROLD: Harold, sir. I mean, Mr. Phanuel.

PHANUEL: Just Phanuel. Harold? That's kind of an unusual name for an angel, isn't it?

HAROLD: I wouldn't know. I'm glad to be here, sir. I'm ready to go to work. Do you have an assignment for me?

Phanuel consults his clipboard.

PHANUEL: Well, let's see now. Do you have any special skills?

HAROLD: I can sing.

PHANUEL: We could use a few new guardian angels to help protect the humans. They always seem to be getting themselves into trouble.

HAROLD: I'm a singer.

PHANUEL: Well, I don't really need a singer right now. We're always looking for good messengers.

HAROLD: What do they do?

PHANUEL: They go to earth and talk to humans, delivering the message that God has given them. In fact, we've got a special message that needs to be delivered soon to a young girl in Nazareth named Mary. God wants her to know that she has found favor with him. She is going to give birth to the son of God.



HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART ONE



HAROLD: Jesus?

PHANUEL: Yes.

HAROLD: He's going down to earth?

PHANUEL: Yes. It's all part of a very special plan that God the Father has to save the world.

HAROLD: Wow, that's exciting.

PHANUEL: I know. Jesus' arrival on earth is going to be the cause of a lot of rejoicing and celebration here in heaven and down there on earth.

HAROLD: That's a big message.

PHANUEL: Does it sound like something you could handle?


HAROLD: It depends.

PHANUEL: On what?

HAROLD: Can I sing the message?

PHANUEL: You're really into singing, aren't you? Okay Harold, let's hear what you've got.

Harold takes a few moments to warm up.



HAROLD: Me, me, me, me. (*screaming, ugly*) JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME, LET EAR-

PHANUEL: Thank you, Harold. That's enough now. I've heard all I need to hear.

HAROLD: What do you think? Ain't I a natural born singer?

PHANUEL: You. . . You are. . . something else, Harold. I've never heard anything like you.

HAROLD: So, what time do you need me to go down to earth and sing for this lady who's going to give birth to Jesus?

PHANUEL: You know what? I think I'll send Gabriel. He was down there a few months ago talking to a guy named Zechariah about the baby he and his wife Elizabeth are going to have. He knows the lay of the land pretty well already.



HAROLD: Okay, that's fine. So what assignment do you have for me?



HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART ONE

PHANUEL: I'm not sure yet, Harold. But we will find something for you to do.

HAROLD: No sweat. It just gives me all the more time to practice my singing. (*Screams, uglier than ever*) JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME, LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING-

PHANUEL: We better find you an assignment soon.

END. SING: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



WORSHIP: PART ONE

SING: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

SPEAKER 2:

Jesus' arrival on the scene is the cause for great celebration for all of humanity. For all of creation. But the official birth announcement did not come with a lot of fanfare. There were no proclamations in the town square. There were no parades in the street declaring that the Messiah would soon be born.

It was just a single visitor and a frightened young girl. That visitor happened to be a messenger from heaven. And the message he delivered not only changed her life, but it changed the course of history.

BIBLE READER 2:

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

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

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "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 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."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38

SPEAKER 3:

At first Mary was greatly troubled by the words of her heavenly visitor. But the angel's message transformed Mary's fear into joy. We often have times of fear and worry in our own lives, however our concerns should not keep us from coming into the presence of God. When we bring our concerns to Jesus, his perfect love will drive away the fear and doubt, freeing us to praise God and to celebrate Jesus with all of our hearts.

SING: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART TWO

Serafina and Daniel are sitting at the table eating snacks. They don't look too happy. Harold enters, all smiles. He sits down at their table.

HAROLD: Hey guys, isn't it a beautiful day?

SERAFINA: Yes, it is.

DANIEL: We're in heaven. It's always a beautiful day.

SERAFINA: Would you like a snack?

HAROLD: Oh no, I'm too excited to eat.

DANIEL: Really? What's up, Harold? I could use some excitement.

HAROLD: I've spent the whole day singing. (*Warming up*) Me, me, me, me. JOY-.

DANIEL: That's okay, Harold. We believe you. You don't have to prove it by singing.

HAROLD: Okay. So what have you angels been up to today?

SERAFINA: Nothing.

HAROLD: Nothing?

DANIEL: Absolutely, nothing.

SERAFINA: We're waiting for our next assignment.

DANIEL: It seems like eternity since we had an assignment.

SERAFINA: I hate to admit it up here in heaven, but I'm a little bored.

DANIEL: Me too.

HAROLD: Bored?

Daniel and Serafina nod sheepishly.

HAROLD: There isn't any time to be bored! Especially with all of the excitement going on down on earth. First, the angel Gabriel visits Elizabeth to tell her that she will have a son and that son will grow to become John the Baptist. And then Gabriel goes to Mary and tells her that she will also have a son. And he will be none other than the Lord himself! Jesus will grow up to save the world from sin. Isn't that amazing?

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART TWO

DANIEL: It is. But as you point out, it was Gabriel who got to deliver both of those messages.

SERAFINA: We were up here when all of that happened, Harold.

HAROLD: Yes, but we still get to be in on the fun. Most of the world still has no idea what is about to happen. But we do. We know that Jesus is coming. We get to wait for his coming. Oh my, I just get so excited from the anticipation, all I can do is sing. (*screaming, ugly sounds*) JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME, LET EARTH-

SERAFINA: Thank you, Harold. That's enough singing.

DANIEL: I guess you have a point about the excitement of anticipation.

HAROLD: Sure. Speaking of excitement, did you guys hear about when Mary visited her relative Elizabeth?

SERAFINA: No. What happened?

HAROLD: Well, when Mary said her "hellos" to Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth leapt for joy.

DANIEL: John the Baptist leapt for joy?

HAROLD: Even that tiny baby who isn't even born yet is excited that Jesus is coming. And if he can get excited. . .

Harold looks from Daniel to Serafina.

SERAFINA: Then there's no reason that we shouldn't get excited too.

HAROLD: That's right. Excited enough to sing.

DANIEL: Thanks, Harold.

HAROLD: You're welcome. I'm always glad to add a few members to my band of angels.

DANIEL: (*to Serafina*) Oh, I can't wait for Jesus to arrive. I wonder where he's going to be born?

Daniel and Serafina rise and walk away from the table.

SERAFINA: A palace, I bet. That's where a king should be born.

DANIEL: Yeah, but Joseph and Mary are poor people. Jesus is more likely to be born in a cow stable than a palace.

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HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART TWO

SERAFINA: Sure, Jesus is going to be born in a stable. That's rich.

They exit.

HAROLD: Shucks. I thought I had enlisted two more people to sing with me. Oh well, I guess I'm still on my own. (*Screaming*) JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME, LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING.

END.

WORSHIP: PART TWO

SPEAKER 4:

Jesus is the one and only true Savior of the world. However, he wasn't the only miracle baby being born during this time. Earlier, Zechariah – a priest who served in the temple – was visited by an angel and told that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. Elizabeth had never been able to conceive before, and now she and Zechariah were too old to have children. But God gave them a miracle, a child named John.

After Mary's visit from the angel, she took a trip to visit Elizabeth, who was a relative of hers. They were both with child, and when they got together, a little celebration broke out.

BIBLE READER 3:

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.
Luke 1:39-56

SING: O Come All Ye Faithful

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WORSHIP: PART TWO

SPEAKER 5:

We can all celebrate Jesus. You don't have to be rich and powerful. You don't have to have be perfect. As this story tells us, you don't even have to be born yet.

Even from inside his mother's womb, Elizabeth's baby somehow recognized that he was in the presence of the Messiah. When he jumped for joy inside of her, the Holy Spirit gave Elizabeth the insight to realize what was happening. And she praised God for how he had blessed Mary.

Later, Elizabeth gave birth to a son and gave him the name of John. John would grow to be a preacher known as John the Baptist. He went around Israel declaring the coming of the Messiah. And on the day Jesus came to John to be baptised, John recognized once again, that he was in the presence of the Messiah.

Today, you are in the presence of the Messiah. How will you respond? Will you try to clean yourself up? Will you run and hide? Or will you simply jump for joy in the presence of your king?

SING: What Child Is This?

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HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART THREE

Phanuel stands on stage, clipboard in hand. He looks out over the audience.

PHANUEL: It's another beautiful day in heaven. Good work, God.

Harold enters.

HAROLD: Good evening, Supervisor Phanuel. How are you?

PHANUEL: Good, Harold. But you can just call me Phanuel.

HAROLD: Phanuel, do you have any assignments for me?

PHANUEL: I gave you an assignment. Clean up the break room.

HAROLD: I did that already. It's looks great. God is very close to the break room.

PHANUEL: What do you mean by that?

HAROLD: Well, they say "Cleanliness is next to godliness." I was just trying to say the break room is very clean.

PHANUEL: Oh, well that's good.

HAROLD: While I was at it, I went ahead and cleaned all of the other rooms too.

PHANUEL: Wow. Thank you, Harold. But weren't there some other tasks on that assignment sheet I gave you?

HAROLD: I did all of those too.

PHANUEL: You've been very busy. And now you're back for more? Aren't you tired? You can have a break if you want.

HAROLD: Well, sir, I mean Phanuel. I was hoping that you might have one specific kind of assignment for me.

PHANUEL: You still want to sing, don't you?

HAROLD: Yes. I've been practicing every day. (Screams out a song) JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD-

PHANUEL: I believe you, Harold. But, unfortunately, I just don't have any assignments that require your unique brand of singing.

HAROLD: Is it that you don't want me to sing?

The page is decorated with musical notes and holly leaves. At the top, a red banner contains the title. Musical notes are scattered around the page, including a large one on the right side and several smaller ones. Holly leaves with red berries are placed in the corners.

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART THREE

PHANUEL: Now why would you say that?

HAROLD: I think I'm a great singer, but if you disagree I think you should tell me.

PHANUEL: Well, Harold, I...

Jordan rushes in.

JORDAN: It's here. It's here.

PHANUEL: What's here?

JORDAN: The big day. It's finally arrived.

PHANUEL: What big day? Oh wait. You mean THE big day?

JORDAN: (*nods*) Yes. Jesus is almost here. Mary and Joseph are in Bethlehem and she's just about ready to deliver the baby.

PHANUEL: Oh my.

HAROLD: This is so exciting.

JORDAN: I know. And God has a big assignment for us.

PHANUEL: What?

JORDAN: There are shepherds in a field outside of Bethlehem. God wants to let them know that Jesus is born.

PHANUEL: He's sending one of us down there to tell them?

JORDAN: Not one. He's sending a whole multitude. I have thirty minutes to put together a choir. I need singers.

HAROLD/PHANUEL: Singers?

JORDAN: Lots of singers. Do you have any singers? I'll take any you can spare.

Phanuel looks doubtfully to Harold. Harold is all smiles in anticipation. He's ready to go; he just needs the word from his supervisor.

PHANUEL: All right. You can go.

Harold jumps up in excitement.

The page is decorated with musical notes and holly leaves. At the top, a red banner contains the title. Musical notes are scattered along the top and right edges. Holly leaves with red berries are placed at the top left, top right, and bottom left corners.

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART THREE

HAROLD: Yes.

PHANUEL: This is your big day, Harold. Enjoy it. This is the big day for all of us. It's a time to celebrate. So go out there and celebrate!

HAROLD: Oh, thank you, Phaniel. I won't let you down. (Scream singing) JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME. LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING, LET-

Harold continues to sing as he exits. Jordan is worried by the terrible singing, but she shakes it off.

JORDAN: It'll be fine. I'm sure the other singers will drown him out.

Jordan rushes out.

END.



WORSHIP: PART THREE

SING: The First Noel

SPEAKER 6:

Jesus has arrived! The Father has demonstrated his great love by sending us his son. It's a cause for great celebration.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem – a small town, not much to speak of. The government was conducting a census and so the town was crowded with people. Mary was forced to deliver her baby in a stable.

The Savior of the world was born in a barn. The Son of God took his first nap in a feeding trough. But even these humble surroundings couldn't stop the celebration.

BIBLE READER 4:

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. He 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.

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, "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."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

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. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:4-20

SING: O Holy Night

SPEAKER 7:

The angels celebrated by declaring the birth of Jesus to the shepherds out in the fields. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and saw the baby for themselves. They praised God, and kept the celebration going by telling everyone they encountered about what they had seen. We don't know how many more visitors came to the stable that night because of the shepherds' testimony, but the Bible does tell us that everyone who heard was amazed.

When we praise Jesus with our whole hearts, we can't help but keep the celebration going by sharing him with others. For the Jesus we know isn't just lying in that manger.

The page is decorated with musical notes and holly leaves. In the top left, a musical note is partially visible. A red banner with the text 'WORSHIP: PART THREE' is positioned below it. In the top right, several musical notes are arranged in a row. Below them, a holly leaf with red berries is visible. On the right side, another musical note is partially visible. In the bottom left, a musical note is partially visible. In the bottom right, a holly leaf with red berries is visible. The text 'WORSHIP: PART THREE' is written in white capital letters on a red background.

WORSHIP: PART THREE

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SPEAKER 7 {CONT.}:

We know that Jesus walked through the countryside. We've know he preached on the mountain. We know that he walked on water. We know that he multiplied the loaves and fish. We know he was crucified, bearing the shame of our sin. And most importantly, we know he defeated death and rose again.

Jesus gave his life for us, robbing sin of its power. He rose again, ending the curse of death. We have much to celebrate. We have much to share with others.

SING: Go Tell it On The Mountain

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART FOUR

Harold sits at the table munching on snacks. This is the first time we've ever seen him unhappy. Serafina and Daniel enter and join Harold at the table. They look concerned.

SERAFINA: Good morning, Harold.

HAROLD: Morning.

DANIEL: Isn't it a beautiful day?

HAROLD: Yep.

SERAFINA: It's good to see you. I haven't seen you around much lately.

Harold just keeps eating.

DANIEL: We were thinking it might be fun to do something together later. Would you like to come along?

HAROLD: What are you doing?

DANIEL: I thought we could play some Angel Charades.

SERAFINA: What are Angel Charades?

DANIEL: It's like regular charades but it's played by angels.

Harold just keeps eating.

DANIEL: If you don't want to do that, we could play Angel Apples to Apples or Angel Scatergories.

HAROLD: I don't really feel much like doing anything.

SERAFINA: What's wrong, Harold? We're your friends, you can tell us.

HAROLD: I've come to realize that I am a terrible singer.

SERAFINA: You're what?

HAROLD: I love to sing and I always thought I was great at it. And now I see that every time I open my mouth and sing (*screams*) "JOY TO THE WORLD" that it hurts people's ears. And angels' too.

DANIEL: Harold, you're being silly.

HAROLD: So do you think I sing well?

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART FOUR

DANIEL: Well, no.

Harold lets out a moan of sorrow.

SERAFINA: Daniel!

DANIEL: Well, he asked. I'm not going to lie to him. I'm an angel.

HAROLD: It's okay. I want you to be truthful. I just don't know what to do now that I realize I can't sing. All I've ever wanted was to be a singer. To give praise to God. Now that I don't have that, I don't have anything to honor God with.

SERAFINA: Now that's just absolute nonsense. You have so much to offer God.

HAROLD: You're just saying that.

SERAFINA: No, I'm not. You have your enthusiasm. Angels like being around you, Harold, because you always see the good in people and in situations. You encourage everyone that you come in contact with.

HAROLD: So.

SERAFINA: So that's a rare talent. Not everyone can do that.

DANIEL: And you're a hard worker.

HAROLD: Am I?

DANIEL: Sure, I've seen your assignment sheets. You always have about twice as many things to do as the rest of us. They give you so much because you work so hard. And you never complain about what you have to do.

SERAFINA: And you're funny. Why, you're always making the rest of us laugh.

HAROLD: I'm funny?

DANIEL: Sure. Remember that knock knock joke you told in the break room last week? You had water shooting out of Gabriel's nose.

HAROLD: Thanks, you two. I guess I do have talents and abilities to honor God with.

SERAFINA: And there's one more thing you can honor God with.

HAROLD: What's that?

HAROLD THE ANGEL SINGS: PART FOUR



SERAFINA: Your singing.

HAROLD: But you know I'm not a good singer.

DANIEL: Yes, but we don't have to be the best at something to bring honor to God. God is glorified when we give our all to him with our whole heart.

HAROLD: So even my terrible singing can honor God?

SERAFINA: As long as you do it to praise him.

HAROLD: *(Singing terribly)* JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME,

Serafina and Daniel each put an arm around Harold's shoulders and start singing along. They sound just as bad as Harold.

HAROLD/SERAFINA/DANIEL: *(Scream singing)* LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING. LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM. AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING. AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING. AND HEAVEN AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING.

END.



WORSHIP: PART FOUR



SING: We Three Kings of Orient Are

SPEAKER 8:

The good news of Jesus is for all people. The people of Israel were waiting for a Messiah who would restore their nation, but God sent a Savior who would restore each of us, reconciling us to God.

Even the first Christmas had a diverse group of people celebrating. The lowly shepherds had come from nearby to see the baby. Later, a group of Magi – stargazers from a distant land east of Israel- also came to see the baby.

No matter who you are, where you are from, or what you have done in the past, everyone is welcome in the presence of Jesus.

BIBLE READER 5:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, 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. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:1-12

SING: How Great Our Joy

SPEAKER 9:

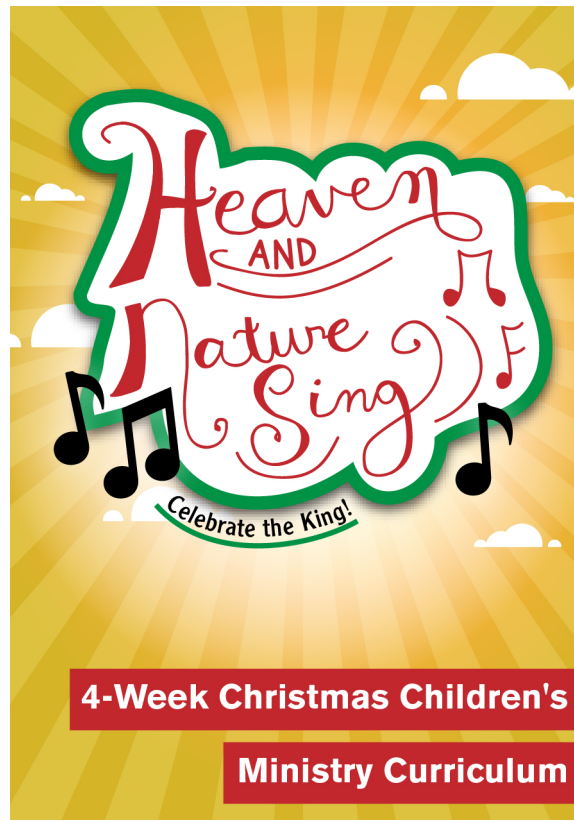
Tonight, we have taken quite a journey. We placed ourselves in a time before the Messiah’s birth. We stepped into the sandals of Mary as she heard of the Messiah’s arrival. We shared in Elizabeth’s joy as she and the baby John, growing inside her, recognized who Mary’s baby would be. We watched with the shepherds as the sky filled with the sights and sounds of the angel chorus – heralding Jesus’ birth. And we traveled with the Magi to honor this newborn King with our gifts.

May we all remember that the Son of God chose to come to earth as a baby to live like us and die for us so that we could live with him forever. Let us join with heaven in celebrating that Jesus Christ is King! Merry Christmas!



Heaven and Nature Sing

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