

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
by Kirk Woodward and Martha Day
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CHARACTERS

Broadcaster
Government official
Innkeeper
Cow
Chicken
Duck
Shepherd
Sheep
Angel
Mary
Joseph

BROADCASTER

Good evening. This is CBS, the Camel Broadcasting System, with a special report from the little town of Bethlehem. How still we see thee lie! But we're hearing reports that something amazing is happening in this little town. The almighty God has come into this world in human form! We don't know what to make of this, so we're going to ask some people about it. Our first interview is with a government spokesperson. What can you tell us about what happened?

GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON

All I know is that everybody was ordered to go to their family's original home town to be registered. So if you were living in Nazareth but your family was from Bethlehem, that's where you had to go. I guess this family you're talking about, that's what they did. Now leave me alone, okay? I'm busy. Luggage inspection.

BROADCASTER

Thank you very much for your time. Now we're going to ask another person what they know about it, because the family came to them looking for a place to stay. We believe you're an innkeeper. Is that right?

INNKEEPER

No, I'm not an innkeeper, and I wish people would stop saying that. We're a *little* town of Bethlehem. We don't have inns – visitors stay in people's houses. So this couple came to our house, and she was obviously about to have a baby, but there just wasn't any room in the house.

BROADCASTER

Inn.

INNKEEPER

House. We felt really bad about it, but all we could offer them was to let them stay in the shelter where we keep the animals. At least it had straw, and if they wanted to they could put the baby in the feed trough.

BROADCASTER

The manger?

INNKEEPER

Right, the feed trough. And that's what they did.

BROADCASTER

Thank you, that's very helpful. Now then, since the innkeeper –

INNKEEPER

We don't have inns.

BROADCASTER

Since the stable owner mentioned animals, let's see if we can get the animals' point of view about this. First, a cow.

COW
Mooooo.

BROADCASTER
And a chicken.

CHICKEN
Bawwwwwk.

BROADCASTER
And of course we'd like to hear from a duck.

CHICKEN AND COW
A duck?

BROADCASTER
Sure, everybody likes ducks.

CHICKEN AND COW
Oh.

DUCK
Quack! Quack!

BROADCASTER
Next, we have some amazing news from a shepherd. Come in, shepherd.

SHEPHERD
I can't come in. I'm taking care of the sheep. Sheep stay outside. So do I.

BROADCASTER
That's right, they do. Do you think the sheep would like to say something?

SHEPHERD
They might. Sheep, how about it?

SHEEP
Baaaa. Baaaaa. Baaaaa.

BROADCASTER
Thank you sheep. Now we want to hear *your* story.

SHEPHERD
Are you sure? Most people in this part of the country look down on shepherds. We spend all our time in the fields with animals, so we're really not very respectable.

BROADCASTER
Here at the Camel Broadcasting Company we can't be picky. So tell us what happened.

SHEPHERD

It was a once in a lifetime experience. I couldn't believe it. We were out in the fields like we always are, taking care of our flock by night, when all of a sudden the sky opened up and an angel said to us

ANGEL

Don't be afraid! I bring you tidings of great joy! To you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

SHEPHERD

You can see why we were amazed. So I thought, "What am I supposed to do about *that*?" And just like it was reading my mind, the angel said to me, "This will be a sign for you. You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

BROADCASTER

You must have been stunned.

SHEPHERD

We were. And that's not all! Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to everyone God loves!" Well, you can imagine we had to hurry to the stable and see what the angels were talking about. So we did, and that's where we found this couple, Mary and Joseph, and sure enough, there was a baby in the manger.

BROADCASTER

Feed trough.

SHEPHERD

Whatever. So we... well, we just plain worshiped. And then we went back to the fields. But I'll tell you, we never had a night like that before.

BROADCASTER

I can believe it. Thank you so much. Now I've just been told we'll be able to have a short word with the baby's mother, Mary, and its earthly father, Joseph. Hi Mary, we know you need your rest so we won't take up much of your time, but can you tell us, what you decided to name the baby?

MARY

We've given him the name Jesus.

BROADCASTER

Does it have special meaning for you? Is that a family name?

MARY

No, it's what the angel told us to name the baby.

BROADCASTER

You had an angel too?

MARY

Yes, and the angel said, "You are going to name the baby Jesus, because he will save the people from their sins."

BROADCASTER

You must have been astonished.

MARY

Well, I just treasured all these things, and pondered them in my heart.

BROADCASTER

And let me ask your husband, Joseph, how do you feel about all this?

JOSEPH

I'll tell you the truth, at first I was confused, and a little worried about the way things were happening. But I'm beginning to understand that God can do anything, and if this is the way God is going to help the world, then I'm all for it. I'm just grateful that God chose us. All I know is that something wonderful is going to happen because of who this baby will grow up to be.

BROADCASTER

And, Joseph, you'll love this, we've got an important star about to appear on our broadcast!

JOSEPH

A star?

BROADCASTER

A real star!

STAR

Hi everyone. Yes, I'm a star.

BROADCASTER

And I understand you're leading the Wise Men to Bethlehem.

STAR

Yes, that's my night job. And they've got gifts! Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

BROADCASTER

Terrific, babies love those.

STAR

But the best thing I bring is the light of God to shine in the darkness, because that's what Jesus will do!

BROADCASTER

So let me ask everybody on our broadcast tonight. Do you really believe that this Jesus is God come into the world in human form to save us all from our sins, because God loves us and wants us to love each other?

JOSEPH

Yes, I do believe it.

MARY
So do I.

SHEPHERD
Me too!

SHEEP
Baaaaaa!

INNKEEPER
Looks like it!

COW
Mooooo!

CHICKEN
Bawwwwk!

DUCK
Quack!

STAR
Bling!

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
Sounds like it's unanimous!

BROADCASTER
Well, if all creation believes it, who am I to say no! All I can say is, thank you, God, for the wonders, wonders, of your love! My advice for all of you out there to do what Mary did – treasure these things, and ponder them in your hearts. That's it, I guess - that's our report. God bless you! Good night!

ALL
(All come on screen. Everyone says something different)
Good night! Bye! So long! Moo! Quack! Arf! (Dog is optional)