

# Zooming to Bethlehem: A Virtual Christmas Pageant

by Carol Penner [www.leadinginworship.com](http://www.leadinginworship.com) 2020 adapted by The Rev. Judith Lee  
based on Luke 2:1-14, Matthew 2:1-12  
**January 3, 2021**

## Characters:

Announcer – Landon Sweet

Innkeeper - Laurel Pirelli

Aaron: Innkeeper's son – Nathan Pirelli

Leah: - Innkeeper's daughter – Reis Pirelli

Mary – Allison Kee

Joseph – Brandon Kee

Cow – Justin Richards

Donkey – Brigid Richards

Sheep – Zoey Richards

Rooster – Teagan Richards

Shepherd #1 Larry – Sebastian Carpenter

Shepherd #2: Darryl - Malachi Carpenter

Angel #1: - Teagan Richards

Angel #2 – Zoey Richards

Wise Person 1: Balthasar – Lauren Ruggiero

Wise Person 2: Melchior – Lisa Ruggiero

Wise Person 3: Casper – Tessa Scrimgeour

The Star – Zoey Richards

## Act 1

**Announcer:** Landon

Welcome to our zoom pageant. Today's performance is called "Zooming to Bethlehem". Let me introduce the pageant players in Act One: We have the Innkeeper, the Innkeeper's children Aaron and Leah, as well as Mary and Joseph at the Inn. Act One Begins Now!

Innkeeper: Laurel

[calling] Aaron? Leah? Aaron? Leah? Aaron are you there? Where are my children? They always disappear when you need them!

Aaron: Nathan Hello! Can you hear me, mom?

Innkeeper: Laurel I think you're muted! I can hardly hear you!

Leah: Reis                I'll be there in a minute. I just need to finish cleaning the stable!

Aaron: Nathan        I was in the backyard. Now can you hear me?

Innkeeper: Laurel    Finally! I've been looking for you and your sister Leah! We have this whole inn to take care of, and we have visitors up to the ceiling, why aren't you helping me?

Aaron: Nathan        I just went to the well to get some extra water. There were lots of people lined up, so I had to wait my turn.

Innkeeper: Laurel    Well, that's a good thing you went for water. With this crowd, you can't have too much water. I'm boiling water for the laundry right now. I have to run.

Aaron: Nathan        No, Mom wait... When I was at the well, just now, I met such a nice couple.

Innkeeper: Laurel    What were you doing wasting time chatting with who knows who when I needed you here?

Aaron: Nathan        They looked to be in trouble, I just wanted to help.

Innkeeper: Laurel    What kind of trouble?

Aaron: Nathan        Well, the woman is expecting a baby, and she was holding her stomach and kind of groaning. I asked if I could help...I didn't recognize them so I figured they are here for Caesar Augustus's census.

Innkeeper: Laurel    I told you not to mention that man's name in this house. If he takes one more shekel in taxes I'll...

Aaron: Nathan        OK, then Quirinius's census--he's the governor of Syria.

Innkeeper: Laurel    Don't mention him either! No Roman politicians are to be named in this house.

Aaron: Nathan        OK, OK... what I'm trying to say is, this woman, her name is Mary, and her husband's Joseph. They've come all the way from Nazareth--that's a long way away, isn't it? And I think it's her time. You know, as in her time to have a baby. They asked me if I knew a place they could find a room.

Innkeeper: Laurel    You didn't tell them we had a room, did you? You know we have no space.

Aaron: Nathan        Welllll...

Joseph: Brandon     **[knocking loudly]** Hello! Aaron, thanks for the good directions, we didn't have trouble finding your inn at all. You must be Aaron's mother ...I'm Joseph, and this is my wife Mary.

Mary: Allison        Thank you so much for saying we could come here, Aaron, we appreciate it so much.

Aaron: Nathan I, um, I, well, you're welcome...

Innkeeper: Laurel **[in a stern tone of voice]** Aaron, you didn't tell them.....

Aaron: Nathan I think I might have.

Innkeeper: Laurel Now Mr. Joseph, I am sorry to tell you that my son Aaron has gotten bit ahead of himself... we actually don't have any rooms left.

Mary: Allison **[with a concerned look on her face]** Ow, ow!

Joseph: Brandon I think it's her time

Mary: Allison I think I'm running out of time! Do you have any water boiled?

Innkeeper: Laurel Oh my goodness! But we don't have any rooms at all!

Joseph: Brandon We've tried everywhere and we really can't go any further.

Leah: Reis Mom, what about the stable? Oh, Hi – I'm Aaron's sister Leah. What about the stable for this couple to sleep tonight...If they have nowhere else to go why couldn't they stay there? I just spent the morning cleaning the stable, and there's nice fresh straw. But there are some animals there....

Joseph: Brandon That's no problem, we will take any shelter we can find, as long as we find it *now*!

Innkeeper: Laurel I have to attend to the other guests. Mary and Joseph, if you want the stable, you can have it... Aaron you take them there. And Leah, I think you'd better take that boiling water to Mary. I guess the laundry will have to wait!

Joseph: Brandon Thank you so much, we were pretty worried when we saw that "No Room in the Inn" sign posted... you are so kind to take us in.

Mary: Allison Ow.

Joseph: Brandon Let's get going!

Leah: Reis It's just back here, it's getting dark, so watch your step. Did you see there's a really big star out tonight!

Star: Zoey twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle

## **Act 2**

Announcer: Landon  
 In Act Two we check in on Mary and Joseph in their new stable accommodations And we will also meet their new animal friends. What wisdom will they shed on this special night?  
 Act Two begins now.

Joseph: Brandon I feel sorry for you, Mary. If only Caesar hadn't called this census. We had no choice...everyone had to go to the town their family came from. And it just so happens, my family is of the house and lineage of David, so we had to trek all the way to Bethlehem from Nazareth. I wish we could have gotten a real room. I never thought we would have to stay in a stable with all these animals.

Cow: Justin Moo

Donkey: Brigid Neigh

Sheep: Zoey Baaaa

Rooster: Teagan Cock a doodle doo.

Mary: Allison I was hoping to get home before the baby came. I guess now we'll go home with the baby. I just wish I had my mother here to help right around now...

Joseph: Brandon I will go and see where that hot water is....we have to trust God that things will work out.

Mary: Allison I've been trusting God this whole time. Except it's getting harder not easier. We had to trust God when I got the message from the angel who said I would give birth to the Son of the most high. They said our baby would have the throne of our ancestor David! A throne? Well...this isn't what I pictured. Could someone whose "kingdom will never end," be born in a barn? Is there some mistake here? I just don't get it.

Joseph: Brandon We both had a message from God. The angel appeared to you and then to me. They said that this child was going to be born of the Holy Spirit. Our baby will save people from their sins.

Mary: Allison Two angels, two messages. That is pretty clear.

Joseph: Brandon I know, this isn't what we expected. But I am sure God has not forgotten us. I trust that our little baby, Jesus, is going to be special.

Mary: Allison Well, he's going to come special delivery pretty soon, Joseph. Can you go and get some of that water. And towels. And candles.

Joseph: Brandon I'll see if they have a room that's a bit more quiet.

Cow: Justin Moo

Donkey: Brigid Neigh

Sheep: Zoey Baaaa

Rooster: Teagan Cock a doodle doo.

Mary: Allison **[Sighing]** I guess we can't do anything about these noisy neighbors! But

I can see that star through the window, it really is remarkable.

Star: Zoey           twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle.

**PAUSE: Musical Meditation:       *Hark the herald angels sing!***

### **Act 3**

Announcer: Landon

In Act 3 we meet the shepherds. Their names are Larry and Darryl.

We meet them as they are out watching their flocks by night, just outside Bethlehem.

Act Three begins now.

Darryl: Malachi       Nice night, tonight. It's quite a sight. Twice as nice as any night.

Larry: Sebastian      You're sounding like quite a poet, Darryl.

Darryl: Malachi       I think it might rain soon, I see some clouds over there in the distance, right by that big bright star.

Star: Zoey           twinkle twinkle twinkle twinkle

Larry: Sebastian      Those clouds look very strange. They look sort of golden.

Darryl: Malachi       That star is starry! Star light, star bright, first starry star, I see tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, have this wish, I wish tonight.

Larry: Sebastian      Darryl, you are such a dreamer. But what would you wish for if you could have anything.

Darryl: Malachi       Oh, I don't know. Maybe just that something different would happen. It's always the same old, same old, here. Nothing new or exciting happens to shepherds. It's baa baa black sheep, day in and day out.

Larry: Sebastian      I have been watching the heavens, and definitely that cloud is getting closer. Look at it!

Darryl: Malachi       **[slowly]** That is strange.. it looks like...wait....what is that!?

Larry: Sebastian      **[shocked]** The light...it's too bright!!!!

Darryl: Malachi       It's getting closer and closer....what is happening? I'm scared!  
It's an angel!!! Hide!!

Angel #1 Teagan       Fear not! I bring you good tidings of great joy for all people!

Larry: Sebastian      What did you say?

Darryl: Malachi       Did you say good news? I've been wishing for some good news!

Angel #2 Zoey      For today is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you, you will find the baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.

Darryl: Malachi      Did you say, lying in a manger, as in, lying in a trough for animal food?

Larry: Sebastian      It doesn't make any sense!

Darryl: Malachi      Wait...look, suddenly, lots of angels are in the sky!!!  
Look, they're still calling to us!

Angel: #1Teagan      Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people!"

Darryl Malachi      I can't see! I can't see!

Larry: Sebastian      Darryl, that's because it's dark out. You just have to adjust your eyes.

Darryl: Malachi      It's dark, but I am starting to see the light. I've never seen an angel before...we've been given some good news tonight. What do we do now?

Larry: Sebastian      It's time to zoom to the city of David, Bethlehem, which is just over that hill! Let's get there as fast we can!

Darryl: Malachi      And leave the sheep? Are you crazy?!

Larry: Sebastian      Trust me ...It's a perfectly calm night, nothing is going to happen. And I think if God can send angels with a message, God can take care of a few sheep for a few hours.

Darryl: Malachi      Are you saying, the Lord is our shepherd? We shall not want!

Larry: Sebastian      God makes me run through green pastures, I guess. What are we waiting for? Let's zoom!

Darryl: Malachi      I will fear no evil!

## **Act 4**

Announcer: Landon  
It's time for Act 4  
This is it, the big highlight of the pageant, the time has come for Mary to have her baby-- for Jesus to be born. The Shepherds come for a visit. Act 4 begins now.

Larry: Sebastian      This is ridiculous. We've been in practically every barn in Bethlehem. And every manger we found only had animal feed in it, no babies at all.

Darryl: Malachi      And some of these people haven't been cleaning their barns very well. What a stinky tour we've had. Maybe we should head back.

Larry: Sebastian I know. It's very disappointing. I thought we heard the message of the angels so clearly, but maybe we got it wrong. We can try again tomorrow night.

Darryl: Malachi Well, let's head home. It's this way. There's that big star again.

Star: Zoey twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle

Larry: Sebastian Look... right under that star is the inn....there seems to be lot of light coming out of the barn windows.

Darryl: Malachi That innkeeper is going to be mad that they are burning so many candles at once. Why would they be using so many candles in a barn?

Larry: Sebastian We've come this far, we'll just go see. **[knocking]** Excuse us, may we come in

Cow: Justin Moo

Donkey: Brigid Neigh

Sheep: Zoey Baaaa

Rooster: Teagan Cock a doodle doo.

Joseph: Brandon Yes, you may come in, who could it be at this time of night?

Larry: Sebastian Well, you don't know us, but we know who you are. We know that baby in your arms is a special gift from God!

Mary: Allison **[astonished]** How can you possibly know that about our little baby, Jesus?

Darryl: Malachi We were just taking care of our sheep, and an angel appeared to us. And then there was with the angel a huge number of angels, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.

Larry: Sebastian And they told us that a savior was born tonight, and that we would find him in Bethlehem, and that he would be lying in a manger.

Darryl: Malachi And we've checked out a lot of mangers tonight, and not one had a baby in it! And so we are here to worship the newborn king!

Joseph: Brandon I am amazed! Thank you so much for coming all this way to see our baby and tell us about the angel visitors!

Larry: Sebastian He is a beautiful baby! A gift from God. Do you mind if we just sit here and adore him for a while?

Joseph: Brandon Actually, it's been a long day for us, and it's rather late. We just want to get some sleep. I feel sort of sheepish telling you this, since you came all this way...

Darryl: Malachi      You're feeling sheepish! We're the ones who showed up in the middle of the night. And speaking of sheepish.. Sheep! Our sheep! We have to be getting back to our flocks. I hope they are in sheep shape when we get there.

Larry: Sebastian      Don't worry...the Lord is our Shepherd! We shall not want! I will fear no evil, for God is with... the sheep. If God can send us a Savior, God can watch our sheep.

Mary: Allison      It was awfully nice of you to visit. It means a lot to us that you confirmed our stories from the angels. We know now that this story is bigger than just us. Our little baby **Jesus [she holds up the baby for everyone to see]** is going to make a big difference in our lives.

Darryl: Malachi      I think this might be bigger than we can imagine. Maybe as big as the whole world. That's a lot of big baggage for this one little baby to carry.

Larry: Sebastian      And it's a big hike back. C'mon, let's hurry back to the hills and our flocks! Surely goodness and mercy are following us!

**PAUSE: Musical meditation      *We three kings***

Hymn #128

## **Act 5**

Announcer: **Landon**

Act 5 begins now. This is the big final act where you will get an epiphany. Literally. The star of the pageant shows up. And we will meet 3 wise persons: Balthasar, Melchior and Casper, as they meet the innkeeper, Mary, Joseph and the baby. The animals speak one last time. Act 5 begins now.

Innkeeper: **Laurel**      I should be sleeping, it's the middle of the night, but somehow I am too tired to sleep. My goodness....look at that star

Star: Zoey      Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle

Innkeeper: **Laurel**      What's that noise, it sounds like camels? Who could possibly be travelling this late?

Balthasar: Lauren      Hello, we are looking for the keeper of this inn.

Innkeeper: **Laurel**      That's me, how can I help you? I am sorry to tell you that we are very full tonight, in fact we are overfull. We even have guests sleeping in the stable! You look like you have travelled a long way?

Casper: Lauren      Yes, we have been travelling for months. We are following the star, and it led us here.

Star: Zoey      twinkle twinkle twinkle twinkle



Balthasar: Lauren We received a vision from God, who told us of a newborn king who would be born, and that we should follow the sign of the star. We are searching for a newborn baby.

Innkeeper: **Laurel** You are looking for a newborn king? I'm sorry to disappoint you, but nobody important lives here. I can tell you that for sure. We're all just ordinary people.

Melchior: Lisa The star can't be wrong, I think we are almost there. Look at it sparkling right above us. Is there no newborn baby here?

Innkeeper: **Laurel** Well, as a matter of fact . . . there is a newborn baby but...

Balthasar: Lauren We want to see the child right away! Where can we park our camels? shall we put them in the stable?

Innkeeper: **Laurel** I don't think they'll fit in the stable because that's where the couple and their child are! Let me lead you to them.  
**[she knocks...flashlights shine on the faces of all the characters in this scene]**  
 Mary, Joseph...oh, I am glad you are still awake. I am sorry to visit you so late, but you have some very important visitors.

Balthasar: Lauren I am Balthasar

Melchior: Lisa I am Melchior.

Casper: Tessa I am Casper.

Balthasar: Lauren We have travelled far from the east, following the sign of the star, we have come to see the newborn king.

Casper: Tessa We have come to see this baby.

Melchior: Lisa What a beautiful child.

Balthasar: Lauren He is sleeping so soundly, so sweetly.

Casper: Tessa This child is born to be a king...

Joseph: Brandon Thank you for coming all this way and for your kind words!

Mary: Allison I need to ponder these words in my heart. How did you find us? How did you know our baby is so special? And you came all this way just to see him?

Balthasar: Lauren It was our joy, our pleasure. It was our mission, ever since we received the sign, we have been travelling. And now we come to share treasures with you.

Mary: Allison **[Holding up a shiny wrapped package]**. What is in these packages! They are

wrapped so beautifully. I want to save the wrapping paper, it's so lovely. You did a very nice job wrapping these!

Casper: Tessa Thank you, my mother taught me how to giftwrap. There's a real knack to it.

Joseph: Brandon Here, just open it already. Oh my...it's gold! You've given us gold?!

Balthasar: Lauren Gold for the royal one!

Mary: Allison I don't know how we can accept.

Melchior: Lisa You must accept, these are for your baby.

Joseph: Brandon And in this box, is this frankincense?

Balthasar: Lauren Yes, the very same.

Mary: Allison And this final present is myrrh, I know that fragrance anywhere.

Casper: Tessa I hope you can find a use for it.

Mary: Allison I am sure we will. Thank you so much for your presents and your blessings on our lovely boy.

Melchior: Lisa Thank you for letting us in ... we know it's late. We will leave you now. May we stop in to see you before we go tomorrow?

Joseph: Brandon Why certainly, we would be honored. We hope to be leaving ourselves in a few days. We want to return to our hometown of Nazareth

Mary: Allison I can't wait to show the baby to my mother. She is going to love her new grandchild; she is going to think he's perfect!

Balthasar: Lauren Wonderful. We have so much to be thankful for! Today has truly been an epiphany for us. We weren't expecting to find a baby in a manger, but God works in mysterious ways.

Joseph: Brandon That's the truth. But we can trust that God will be with us, every day, on every journey.

Mary: Allison Have a good sleep tonight, well, with what's left of tonight, it's practically morning. Pleasant dreams!

Joseph: Brandon I'm so tired, I can't imagine how tired you are, Mary. I can't wait to hit the hay.

Cow: Justin Mooooove over, donkey, we have to let them have roooooom to stretch out to sleep. Well, what an evening this has been! have you ever seen anything quite like that!

Donkey: Brigid      Neigh!, what an wonderful day. A Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Rooster: Teagan      Cock a doodle doodle doodle do you see what I see? Do you see what I see, way up in the sky, little lamb?

Star: Zoey      A star, a star, (that's me!) shining in the night! A child, a child, shivers in the night...he will bring us goodness and light! He will bring us goodness and light!!

Announcer: Landon      And so as sleep falls on the characters, so too the curtain falls on our pageant. Thank you for watching, and with the words of the angels we end our virtual zoom pageant, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to all people." Let's join together and sing *This Little Light of Mine* and promise to share God's light and love everywhere!!