**A Christmas Pageant of Sorts**

The Rev. Skip Comer

**Scene One** *Group of teenagers are walking up the aisle talking.*

One: Hey isn’t this the Sunday that we have the Christmas Pageant?

Two: Yea, but we’re getting to old to put on those silly costumes.

Three: I’ve been everything from a little lamb to Joseph.

Four: I wonder who will do the pageant this year?

*Youth arrive at altar rail and turn around to face the congregation.*

*Young kids come out dressed up as sheep, cow, etc. making animal noises.*

One: *(Looking at the kids.)* What are you doing here?

Kids: This is the Sunday of our Christmas Pageant.

Kid one: Have any of you seen the shepherd?

Three: I was a shepherd three years ago.

Kid two: But where is the shepherd for this year?

Four: We were just talking about that. We’re too old to be in the pageant, so I guess you will just have to find your own shepherd.

**Scene Two**

Two: I’ve got an idea. Let’s tell the Christmas story as if it were happening today.

One: That is an interesting idea.

Three: Ok! Who hasn’t been Mary?

Girl: I haven’t.

Girl: Now we need Joseph. Who would like to be Joseph? *(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_reluctantly raises his hand.)* Great!

One: Let’s get started with the story. You kids come with me.

*Everyone except Mary exits.*

**Scene Three**

Mary: *(Facing the congregation)* Hello, I am Mary. I am engaged to marry a man named Joseph who will be with us shortly.

Gabriel: *(Angel enters, standing on the platform a little behind Mary and says.)* Mary.

Mary: *(Startled, Mary turns around to see who called her name and says.)* Who are you?

Gabriel: I am the angel Gabriel, sent by God to give you a message.

Mary: You don’t look like an angel.

Gabriel: What do you mean?

Mary: You’re supposed to be dress in all white and have wings.

Gabriel: *(Put on a pair of wings.)* Does this help.

Gabriel: God has sent me to tell you that you are going to become pregnant and give birth *(Mary interrupts.)*

Mary: I’m going to what!

Gabriel: You are going to give birth to God’s son.

Mary: I can’t do that. I’m not even married yet.

Gabriel: Yes, we know that. But God has chosen you to give birth to his son.

Mary: Just a minute, here comes Joseph, my fiancé. You had better talk to him.

*(Joseph enters and stands beside Mary facing Gabriel.)*

Gabriel: Ah, Joseph. I was just telling Mary that God has chosen her to give birth to his son and you will name him Jesus.

Joseph: Are you sure about this. This isn’t some kind of joke is it?

Gabriel: Yes, I am sure. God has been watching the two of you and decided that because of your faith in him, you would be the perfect couple to give birth to his son.

*Mary and Joseph look at each other in a puzzling way with some appropriate gestures.*

*Gabriel departs, leaving Mary and Joseph in the center between the altar rails.*

**Scene Four** *(Youth one and two go to the pulpit to help tell the story.)*

One: And so it was. When it was about time for Mary to give birth to the child.

Two: Wait a minute. What excuse are we going to come up with for them leaving here and traveling while when Mary is pregnant?

One: Well--- *(Think for a moment.)* – let’s say that the President has order that everyone has to go to the place of their family’s origin so the government can find out who is a legal resident and who is not.

Two: And to realize how far they have to travel; they are traveling from Beulah to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in a broken down car.

One: So Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem. When they arrive, the city is packed with one people who have also returned to the place of their family’s origin.

*Mary and Joseph exit toward the alcove and move toward the organ and then up the center aisle during the hymn.*

HYMN “O little town of Bethlehem” verse one

Mary: Joseph. We need to find someplace to stay. I’m beginning to have contractions.

Joseph: I believe that my third cousin lives in a house just down the street.

*(Joseph knocks on the imaginary door and the cousin opens the door.)*

Cousin: Hello.

Joseph: I am Joseph, your third cousin. We are looking for a place to stay. Mary is about to have a baby.

Cousin: We don’t have any room. Other relatives got here before you.

Son: *(The son of the cousin comes to the door.)* What’s going on dad?

Cousin: My cousin wants a place to stay. His lady friend is about to have a baby. Maybe they could use your room?

Son: No way!

Cousin: I sorry, but we just don’t have any room.

One: As Joseph and Mary start to walk away the cousin has second thoughts and yells out to Joseph and Mary.

Cousin: On second thought there is no one staying in the garage. You’re welcome to stay there.

One: Mary looks at Joseph dejectedly and Joseph shrugs his shoulders, lifting his palms upward.

Joseph: It may be the best offer we will get.

*(The cousin exists and Mary and Joseph go into the garage.)*

Joseph: At least we have a roof over our heads.

Mary: But I’m about to have a baby.

Joseph: Let’s see what we can find for you to lay on.

*Joseph finds some blankets and a box. Mary lays down on the blankets.*

**Scene Five**

Two: And it came to pass that Mary gave birth to a boy and wrapped him in a musty blanket and laid him in a box.

*The baby is placed in the box.*

One: And there was a teacher in her classroom with students on that day. And suddenly the angel Gabriel appeared to them.

Gabriel: Excuse me.

Teacher: Yes.

Gabriel: I have some great news. This day in the city of Bethlehem a child has been born. He is the son of God who the world has been waiting for.

One: And with that announcement all the angels began to sing.

HYMN “Angels we have heard on high”

Teacher: Come children. We have to go and see this baby.

*Teacher and children move to Mary, standing around her.*

Child One: He’s so cute. But why is he so important?

Child Two: Haven’t you ever heard the story of Jesus?

Child Three: That he is God’s son.

Teacher: That is right. Jesus was born to reveal what God is like, and how much he loves us.

HYMN “Joy to the world” verse one