A Christmas Program

‘A Blessing to Zeal’ (Copied from January 1986 DRE Bulletin)

**Joy to the World!**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

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

Joy to the world the Savior reigns;

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**ACT 1: A BLESSING COMES DOWN**

**Sara: “**A Blessing Comes Down.” When you have news that good to tell, how do you announce it?

**All**: Nothing less than *angels* will do!

**Sara**: And to whom do you make this great announcement?

**All**: To someone who will care and believe.

**Girls:** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.

**Boys:** “Hail, o favored one, the Lord is with you!”

**Girls**: But Mary was greatly troubled at the saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

**Boys**: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

**All**: “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High: And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**Mary**: “How shall this be since I have no husband?”

**Boys:** “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you.”

**All**: “Therefore, the child to be born of you will be called Holy, the Son of God.”

**Mary:** “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

**Girl**: And the angel departed from her.

**Sara:** So the announcement was made, and people began to prepare for the greatest blessing the world has ever known. But how shall we announce the good news of Christmas, that “A Blessing Comes Down”?

**Person A**: We could use an *arrow*, pointing from heaven to earth.

**Person B**: Let’s make the arrow in the shape of a cross.

**Person C**: That would remind us that the blessing is Jesus, who died to take our sins away.

**Sara:** Yes, that’s a good place to begin, where the angel Gabriel began: “A Blessing Comes Down.”

**“To A Virgin Meek and Mild”**

(Sing to the tune of Good King Wenceslas)

To a virgin meek and mild

Came an angel holy,

Greeting her, the undefiled,

In her chamber lowly;

“Hail to you, O blessed one,

Chosen mother of God’s son!

Through a very wondrous birth

He shall come to earth.

**ACT 2: ETERNAL FROM GOD**

**Raffi**: The angel wasn’t the first, of course, to announce the coming of Christ. The prophets had foretold the blessing long before.

**Boy**: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me among you, from your brethren. Him you shall heed.”

**Girl:** “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

**Boy**: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and his name shall be called

***Girls***: Wonderful Counselor

***Boys***: Mighty God

***Girls***: Everlasting Father,

**All**: “Prince of Peace,”

**Raffi**: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper. And this is the name by which he will be called:

**All**: “The Lord is our righteousness!”

**Girl**: “But you, O Bethlehem, as small as you are among Judah’s clans, out of you shall come forth a Governor for Israel, one whose roots are far back in the past, in ancient days.”

**Raffi:** God had planned to send down His blessing from thefoundation of the world, the Bible tells us. The good news of Christmas is “Eternal from God”!

**Boy**: A *circle* is the symbol of eternity because it has no beginning and no end.

**Girl**: And a *heart* is the symbol of love. God’s love has no beginning and no end, too.

**Raffi**: The blessing that comes down at Christmas is truly “Eternal from God”!

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O Little Town of Bethlehem,

How still we see thee lie;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,

The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting Light.

The hopes and fears of all the years ,

Are met in thee tonight.

**ACT 3: HERE IS JESUS**

**Ovsanna**: The people were ready and the place was ready. Now it remained for God to find a way to get them together.

**Boy**: And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

**Ovsanna**: God had found a way!

**All**: And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

**Boy**: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

**All**: And so it was that, while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

**Ovsanna**: Here is Jesus!

**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay. The Little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

**ACT 4: KINGLY LOVE MANGERED NOW**

**Mark**: Here is Jesus!

**All**: And she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger…

**Mark**: Kingly Love Mangered Now.

**All**: Because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Mark**: But there was room in God’s plan for the blessing to be told… And there were people to hear it.

**Girl**: There were in that same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them.

**All**: And the glory of the Lord shone around about them.

**Girl**: And they were sore afraid.

**Boys**: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: A Savior, Which is Christ, The Lord!

**All**: And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger

**Mark**: Kingly Love Mangered Now

**Mark**: We already have a manger on our picture.

 And we already have a heart, to show God’s love for us.

Now how do we show that He’s a King?

A *crown*, of course!

 A *crown* for the King of Kings!

**Mark**: Kingly Love Mangered Now

**We Three Kings of Orient Are**

We three kings of Orient are,

Bearing gifts we traverse afar

Field and fountain moor and mountain

Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night

Star with royal beauty bright,

Westward leading, still proceeding

Guide us to thy perfect light

**ACT 5: OF PEACE, QUIET REST, SING**

**Jonathon:** And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying

**Angels**: Glory to God in the Highest

**Jonathon:** Of course, for this is Jesus, God’s eternal blessing… come down to earth.

**Angels**: And on earth peace, good will toward men. Alleluiah.

**Jonathon**: How shall we symbolize “peace”?

 It was the *angels* who sang of peace.

**Girl:** So let’s have some singing angels.

 And let’s remember what they sang.

**Jonathon**: Of Peace, Quiet Rest

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark, the herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King”:

Peace on earth, and mercy mild

God and sinner reconciled

Joyful all ye nations rise

Join the triumph of the skies;

With th’angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King,”

**ACT 6: THE ULTIMATE VICTORIOUS WORD**

**Eric**: The word is out, the word of God’s eternal blessing come down to the world. And now it must be seen, and shared, and understood.

**Girls**: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

**Shepherds**: “Let us go now unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.”

**Eric**: And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

**All**: And all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds

**Eric**: They had good reason to wonder, for there in the manger was, “The Ultimate Victorious Word.”

**Girl** **1**: How can we picture victory?

**Girl** **2**: We already have the circle for eternity. That reminds us that because Jesus came down, we are going to heaven to wear the crown of victory forever.

**Eric**: And that will happen when the angels come to blow the final *trumpets.* That’s it! Let’s give the angels some *trumpets*. Because the trumpets stand for victory.The Ultimate Victorious Word.

**Silent Night**

Silent night, Holy night,

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!

 Holy infant, so tender and mild.

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Loorr kee-sher, soorp kee-sher

Tsohv oo tsah-mahk, knov yen khah-ghahgh

 Meghm guh pie-lee ahsd-ghuh Bet-leh-hem-en

Yev herr-oo-en shahd ahch-ker guh krah-veh

Hohn oor pur-gee-chuh dzuh-nahv.

Hohn oor pur-gee-chuh dsuh-nahv

**ACT 7: EXCITING YOUR ZEAL**

**Claire**: Well, let’s see how we’ve managed to picture the good news so far.

 “A Blessing Comes Down.” That’s the *arrow* pointing from heaven to earth. In the shape of a *cross*, a symbol of God’s blessing.

**Person 1**: “Eternal from God”

 The *circle* stands for eternity. And the *heart* reminds us of God’s love.

**Person 2**: “Here is Jesus” Yes, He is here, in the manger and in our hearts.

**Person 3**: “Kingly Love Mangered Now”

We put the *crown* above the manger and the heart. And that tells the story of God’s royal love for us all.

**Person 4**: But there’s more, isn’t there? “Of Peace, Quiet Rest, Sing”

 We used singing *angels* to tell of peace.

 “Peace on earth, good will toward men.”

**Person 5**: “The Ultimate Victorious Word.”

 The angels’ *trumpets* tell of victory.

 And so does the *crown* and the *circle* of eternity.

**Claire**: And now what’s left?

**All**: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**(Nazar and Shepherds come to stage)**

**Claire**: “Exciting Your Zeal.” What’s left is people.

**All**: *Excited* people!

**Claire**: People with zeal, eager to praise and serve the Lord who has blessed us so.

 But now that the picture is complete, do you think all those Christmas symbols are hiding the *cross?*

**Person 6**: No, the cross can still be seen.

 The cross is behind everything we celebrate at Christmas.

 The cross gives it all meaning. And the cross makes it all possible.

**Claire**: Yes, the cross is behind all of it, everything we receive at Christmas, everything we celebrate at Christmas, everything we do at Christmas… from “A Blessing” to “Zeal.”

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**All:** Krees-dohs dzuh-nahv yev hide-neh-tsahv.

 Orh-nyahl eh hide-noo-tyoon-un Krees-doh-see

 CHRIST WAS BORN AND REVEALED

 BLESSED IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST