

Journey to Christmas©

Theme: A Christmas journey, viewed from traditional and contemporary viewpoints.

Index: Opening Happy Birthday (all cast)
The Three Wise Men Scene 1 (3 actors)
Group 1 Recitation (up to 6 actors)
- song
Group 2 – Recitation (up to 13 actors)
Three Wise Men Scene 2
Group 3 – Journey of the Star (1 actor)
Group 4 – Journey of the Lamb (1 actor)
The Journey of Mary and Joseph
Group 5 – Journey of the Angels – Reading (up to 6 actors)
Group 6 – Journey of the Angels 2 - Recitation (up to 5 actors)
The Three Wise Men Scene 3
Birthday Party - Finale

Sets, costumes, lighting, sound: very minimal, or none, required

Note that each of these segments, (except for “The Three Wise Men”), are self-standing and therefore any may be deleted from the program with no effect on the overall program. Also, many of these roles can be combined within individual segments, or can be split among more actors, as need warrants. As well, actors may easily perform in more than one segment. (All actors will take part in the opening and closing segment).

Some segments of this program have been adapted from DramaShare’s “Reason for the Season” and “Christmas Passed” scripts.

Readings could be done as Choral Reading, for added effect.

Script:

The Birthday Party - Opening

People dressed in party apparel, wearing party hats and carrying balloons, streamers and presents, enter from various sanctuary entrances, move quickly toward the stage area. They are laughing and chattering excitedly. Someone starts to hum "Happy Birthday" and soon everyone joins in.

Well everybody has a birthday
With a cake and a party too.
And all their friends come over
To say "Happy Birthday to you".

Happy Birthday Baby Jesus
Even when your birthday's through

All year long we'll remember
Each precious gift we get from you.

Well, we're gonna have a party
The best you'll ever see
The party is for Jesus
Born for you, and for me.

Happy birthday, baby Jesus.
On this journey home to You.
We understand, precious Saviour
Our salvation comes from You.

This is such a special journey
Want you to come along
It's such a happy journey
So I'm singing this song

Mary, Joseph to the manger
Shepherds and the Wise Men too.
We too must make the journey
Journey lasts our whole life through.

Happy Birthday Baby Jesus
Even when your birthday's through
All year long we'll remember
This our journey home to you.

La la la la la, la la la la
La la, la la
La la la la la, la la la la
La la, la la
La la la la la, la la la la
Our Christmas journey to You!
Our Christmas journey to You!

Merry Christmas!

The Three Wise Men – Scene 1

The Three Wise Men – any age (male or female, if possible one female):
Donna (Balthazar)
Ronnie (Gaspar)
Daniel (Melchior)

Script:

Three actors come into the sanctuary through back doors.

Voices:

Daniel: Look you guys! Mrs. Johnson expects us to have our lines memorized for the Christmas Concert, for Pete's sake. She'll be really mad if she finds out that we haven't!

Ronnie: Well I just might tell Mrs. Johnson that I don't want to do this play. And I'm going to tell her what I think of this beard too!

Daniel: Ronnie, you're always grouching about the beard. We are supposed to be the Wise Men, for Pete's sake. Beards and Wise Men. They go together like, like, . . . well, . . . they just go together, OK? What's so bad about the beards anyways, for Pete's sake?

Ronnie: What's so bad about the beards? You are asking me what's so bad about these beards? Well, I shall tell you what's so bad about these beards! They are hot, yes, and they are itchy, and what's more, they stink, that's what! Do you get the message, Daniel? And do you realize that just because we are Wise Men we shall have to stay on stage for the whole Christmas concert. By the time we're finished, these beards will be positively obnoxious. Now, then. Have I made my feelings quite clear to you, Daniel? Have I made it clear just exactly what's wrong with these stupid beards, Daniel?

Donna: Well, what I can't figure out is why we're doing this anyways! I mean, what's the big deal, why is it life or death that there always needs to be dumb Wise Men in every dumb concert, every dumb year?

Three enter sanctuary from rear doors, deliver lines as they walk to the front.

Daniel: But it's the Christmas story for Pete's sake! There's always Wise Men in the Christmas story. You know that! Now come on you two, let's get at it, for Pete's sake! Where's your scripts? We might as well go through our lines until Mrs. Johnson gets here, for Pete's sake!

Donna: Since when are you the big boss over this play, Daniel? Have you appointed yourself the director or something? Don't tell me, Mr. Ron Howard, right? You are the world's greatest director, aren't you Mr. Ron Howard? And your studio sent you to head up this Christmas concert, right?

Daniel: Look, for Pete's sake! All I'm saying is, you guys are goofing off, for Pete's sake! We've got a play to get ready for. We're supposed to be the Three Wise Men, and we're acting like the Three Stooges, for Pete's sake!

Ronnie: Just keep your shirt on, Daniel! Look, we might as well do it, Donna, or we'll never get any peace from, . . . from . . . Willy Shakespeare here! Where's our lines? OK, here now, you have the first line Donna.

All three pick up pages, start to read.

Donna: I want to tell you about a journey we were proud to make. I am Balthazar, from the Orient. We were well known as teachers, priests, physicians, astrologers, seers, interpreters of dreams, augers, soothsayers; some called us Wise Men. Some of our us had noticed the rising of a remarkable star. This discovery was the reason for my journey, and that of my two friends and companions, Gaspar and Melchior.

Ronnie: Yes dear Balthazar, I, Gaspar, had for many years been studying ancient writings. Many of these writings spoke of a coming king of the Jewish nation, a Messiah. These writings spoke of a star which was to be a sign of the king's coming. Since I did not precisely know what the meaning of this star might be, I called on the expertise of my friend Melchior, a respected astrologer.

Daniel: When Gaspar spoke to me I was overwhelmed by the enormity of the search and the journey we were about to undertake. We would require professional traveling assistance, and instantly I thought of an acquaintance, Balthazar, a renowned traveler, an organizer of camel trains, a man who knew the lands to the west as most men knew the backs of their hands.

Donna: So it was that we found ourselves and our entourage following this star. Many of my friends believed we had taken leave of our senses. How, they asked, was it that we would set out on this journey, leaving all behind, following a star, we knew not where?

Ronnie: For ages, it seemed, we followed the star, never coming any closer to it's source. Then as we approached Jerusalem the star seemed to gain in intensity. Up ahead shone the mighty palace of King Herod. Of course! How appropriate, the King of the Jews, born in the most luxurious palace in Jerusalem. So we made haste to the court of Herod, enquiring of him his knowledge of this happening.

Daniel: My recounting of the phenomenon of the star seemed to disturb Herod greatly, as well as all the leaders of the Jerusalem community. Herod

called a meeting of all the Jewish religious leaders, asking if they knew where this Messiah might be born.

Ronnie: It was then that the words of the prophet Micah came back to me, "O little town of Bethlehem, you are not just an unimportant little Judean village. For a Governor shall rise from you, to rule my people Israel". Of course! How could I have overlooked this oft-read ancient writing?

Donna: Herod and his advisers asked that we proceed with haste to Bethlehem, and that we inform him when the Babe was found, that he might also pay his respects. The secretive glances between Herod and his advisers made me question their sudden interest.

Daniel: Leaving Jerusalem, we set out those few miles to Bethlehem. My heart near burst within my chest as there, immediately over the little town of Bethlehem, shone the star which we had followed those many miles.

Ronnie: There before us was a stable, from within came a radiant glow. Entering in we found a baby and his mother. And we fell to the earthen floor, overcome with feelings of adoration. And with great humility I gave my gift of chrusos (pronounce khroo-sos'), gold.

Donna: And libanos (pronounce lib'-an-os), frankincense.

Daniel: And smurna (pronounce smoor'-nah), myrrh.

Actors put sheets down.

Ronnie: I guess the story is OK, but really, do we need to tell this story every year. I mean, there's nothing new, is there?

Donna: Oh look, there's Mrs. Johnson in the Sunday School room, let's go tell her we've been practicing for an hour already. Maybe she'll let us go home now.

Actors leave stage area.

Group 1 - Recitation

Children's Group 1 come on stage, (from rear if possible), recite and then sing a song or carol. As children say their lines, project those lines on back wall or screen in order that, if lines are low volume or forgotten, the audience will get the meaning. Children hold up placards showing their letter as they give their lines. If needed, lines could be printed on back of each placard. This would reduce the need for prompting.

J - is for Jesus who came here to earth
O – is Our Savior, Our reason for worth
U – tells Us of His Undying love
R – our Redeemer, who came from above
N – is the New Lamb, the sacrifice rare
E – Everlasting, your sins He will bear
Y – it's Your Journey, come walk by His side
The road is prepared and He is your guide.

All: Come walk with Jesus!

Sing a song or carol, example: Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us Thrupp/Viner 1779-1867

Group 2 - Recitation

Group 2 come on stage, (from rear if possible), recite and then sing a carol. As children say their lines, project those lines on back wall or screen in order that, if lines are low volume or forgotten, the audience will get the meaning. Children hold up placards showing their letter as they give their lines. A blank placard might separate the two words. If needed, lines could be printed on back of each placard. This would reduce the need for prompting. Note - If there are insufficient number of children, some of the more outgoing children, (or perhaps the oldest) will need to have a letter in each hand and deliver two parts.

Birthday Acronym:

H Happy birthday, baby Jesus
A Angel's voices all around.
P Purest love this night came down.
R Placed among the fragrant hay
Y You are born, our King today!

B Bethlehem, the town asleep.
I In a stable, with the sheep.
R Roughest lumber for your manger,
T The star above to guide the strangers.
H Happy Mary, Joseph proud, watching o'er the little boy.
D Down below the shepherds wake, listen to the songs of joy.
A Angels bathed in glorious light,
Y You are born, the King, tonight.

all sing a carol example, O Little Town of Bethlehem