

BUC Christmas Pageant 2021

Background music on arrival (performed live by muso's)

Welcome Dave

Hello everyone and welcome to Brunswick Uniting Church's Christmas pageant for 2021. Welcome to everyone who is here in-person, and to everyone who is watching on-line – either live or later.

Thank you very much for wearing your mask while you are in this space, including while we sing.

We hope and pray that you can enter in to the joy of this Christmas eve. Along with singing lustily, there are a couple of other ways to get involved tonight. For younger children, we have some costumes in the kids corner: angel wings, shepherd's gear, animal clothing – which you could wear – and in the very last scene you can come down and join the whole cast.

And for everyone, when you hear the line: "Wake up Jeff", that's your cue to repeat it. Let's give it a try. I'll say Wake Up Jeff, and you repeat it... Wake Up Jeff! (congregation repeats)

Not bad, not bad. Wake Up Jeff (Wake Up Jeff).

Great, and at one point we even have some mindfulness exercises you might want to follow along with.

So, the title for this year's pageant is Finding your voice, and we will be listening to some familiar voices from the story of Jesus birth, and some not-so-familiar voices – voices like Elizabeth's and Zechariah's. They were very important voices when Luke sat down to write his story of Jesus birth.

And we now have an angel finding her voice to bring us a special greeting.

Acknowledgement of country (Eleanor Lees?)

Opening prayer Dave

Let's offer tonight's pageant to God in prayer. Let's pray...

Loving God,

Voice of love, voice of life, we give thanks for the big-hearted life and love you give us. We give thanks for the chance to gather in church and on-line on this holy night, as we celebrate your daring act – being born among us – coming close and living with us. God, right here in the midst of all our joys and struggles.

Jesus, we thank you for your voice, speaking radical love and compassion. We pray that we may listen for your voice throughout our lives, and in doing so, find our own true voice.

We pray your blessing, God, on all those who have contributed to this Christmas pageant, and on our lives together.

Through the Spirit's voice of love, we pray, Amen.

Let's stand and sing, The Angel Gabriel from heaven came.

Opening song: The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

Cast video montage with Choir 'Going to Bethlehem'

Narrator 1: (Luke 1: 5-10) Patrick Hall

During the rule of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, the brother of Moses. Her name was Elizabeth. Together they lived honorably before God, careful in keeping the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. But they were childless because Elizabeth could never conceive, and now they were quite old.

As Zechariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense. The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple.

SCENE ONE:

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

We must keep within God's law, and make Him happy (*He is lighting incense, Angel G suddenly appears, Zechariah stumbles backwards*) ... wh... what are you? What are you doing here? Who are you? Why are you in the Temple when I thought that it was only me who was in here...

ANGEL G (Greta):

Zechariah, don't be afraid, your prayer has been heard by God, your wife Elizabeth will give birth to a son. You will name him John and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

Are you *suuuuuuuure*? I am an old man. And my wife is really old too! And I don't want to doubt God but it really seems quite fanciful and I'm just struggling to see how that would happen given our advanced aged.

ANGEL G (Greta):

(*mutters to herself*) You talk a lot. I see why you make a good priest. (*turns back to Zechariah*) God sent me to talk to you. Are you doubting God?

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

No! I'm not, well, you know, as I said. *(gestures to himself)* Very... verrrrrry.... Old. And it's just that

ANGEL G (Greta):

Well... *(gets interrupted)*

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

Also! If we were to have a baby it would be great to name him after myself because we've been waiting to have a child our whole lives and I just think that it would be great...

ANGEL G (Greta):

ENOUGH!! How does your wife get a word in edgewise? You will trust God and you will see the results. And your son will be named John, just wait and see

(The angel disappears and Zechariah looks around and shrugs, Elizabeth enters)

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

My love, I have just been visited by an angel, and they told me we are to have a child! That we, Elizabeth and Zechariah *(gestures to the two of them)*, are to have a baby and that you will fall pregnant.

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

Are you sure? That would be the most wonderful news!

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

Are you doubting God?

(Elizabeth shakes her head)

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

(glances around obviously in a suspicious way) And I think we should call him Zecha...

(Zechariah grabs dramatically at his throat and tries to speak. Only coughing/hacking noises come out as he tries to speak)

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

Zechariah? Are you okay?

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

Z... a... l.... z.... *(continues to cough and splutter dramatically)*

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

Do you know what's wrong? Why can't you speak?

(Zechariah glances around and shrugs. Elizabeth wraps her arm around him and they exit together as she speaks quietly to him)

Song: A Voice is heard (by Trisha Watts)

Narrator 2: (Luke 1: 24-27) Owen Parris

When the course of his priestly assignment was completed, Zechariah went back home. It wasn't long before his wife, Elizabeth, conceived. She went off by herself for five months, relishing her pregnancy. "So, this is how God acts to remedy my unfortunate condition!" she said.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Galilee, to the village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name was Mary.

SCENE 2:

(Mary is doing some kind of household task, putting out the washing or something similar when Angel G appears suddenly)

ANGEL G (Greta):

Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you!

(Mary notices the angel for the first time)

MARY (Clara):

Who are you?

ANGEL G (Greta):

I'm the angel Gabriel *of course!* Don't be afraid, you are going to have a baby and you will name him Jesus. He's going to be a very special little baby.

MARY (Clara):

Oh okay

ANGEL G (Greta):

Wow, is that all? I normally get a much bigger reaction. The *last guy* just wouldn't stop talking about how old he was... blah blah blah. Pretty dramatic guy really. And then tried to name the baby after himself. Against God's wishes! Well, I'm sure he'll learn soon enough

MARY (Clara):

Oh well... I guess I'm just trying to process it all.

ANGEL G (Greta):

That makes sense but still, usually a bit more of a reaction?

MARY (Clara):

What were you after? Tears, screaming, laughter, disbelief? I could probably rustle some of that up if you'd like

ANGEL G (Greta):

(sighs) No no... it's fine. I guess. Anyway, The baby will be Holy. Now listen, your cousin Elizabeth who is very old is also pregnant because God can do anything.

MARY (Clara):

Yes, I had heard that. She is very old. I'm going to go and visit her.

(The angel leaves, Mary walks out...)

Narrator 3: Luke 1: 39-41 Sam Coath

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and travelled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zechariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit...

SCENE 3:

Mary walks in to greet Elizabeth and Zechariah. Mary and Elizabeth hug and in one motion they both jump back in shock

MARY (Clara):

What.. what was that?

we listen the voices of baby John and baby Jesus

JESUS:

Hey what was that?

JOHN:

Sorry! I just couldn't believe it's you

JESUS:

What do you mean, "you"

JOHN:

Well, you're *Jesus* aren't you

JESUS:

I mean, that's what mum calls me when she talks to me, so I guess so?

JOHN:

Well, I heard from some angels that you're going to be blessed and be a really, *really* special baby that is super important

JESUS:

I heard the same thing about you!

JOHN:

That's so cool! I'm so excited to meet you once we've both been born. I already feel so connected to you

JESUS:

I feel the same way. It's nice to know that when I'm born I'll already have a friend. I worry there's going to be a lot of people who I won't know when I'm born...

JOHN:

I'm sure it will be fine, you're going to be so special. I mean, what could go wrong?

(Back to Mary and Elizabeth)

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

I don't know. It was almost like my baby jumped for joy or something? That was very strange. It feels to me like the Lord has blessed you so much to give you this baby.

MARY (Clara):

Yes, although I'm nervous, I do feel very blessed.

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

It is very good to be around you, Mary. I have missed you.

MARY (Clara):

And what happened to Zechariah, Elizabeth? He used to be very *fond* of talking

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

I'm not quite sure, he told me he was visited by an angel who told him that we would have a baby, and when he tried to tell me what he wanted to name the baby and then he just froze and he hasn't spoken a word since.

(Zechariah tries to speak but it is less enthusiastically than what has been seen before)

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

See! No matter what I do or say he still can't speak. I have tried every cure under the sun.

MARY (Clara):

Well, Elizabeth, while it's concerning that he can't speak it's nice to hear you talking so much. Normally you let Zechariah do all the talking for you.

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

Well, with Zechariah it's often easier just to let him do all the talking and make all the decisions

MARY (Clara):

Elizabeth, you are important and your voice matters. Yours and Zechariah's relationship should be a partnership.

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

Oh Mary, you're so *modern*. I am very old compared to you.

MARY (Clara):

Whatever you say Elizabeth, but remember your voice is just as important as Zechariah's.

(Zechariah looks on thoughtfully)

Choir item: Mary and Elizabeth's song, by Dee Gorman

SCENE 4

(Joseph is sleeping, lying down and Angel G appears beside him)

ANGEL G (Greta):

Psst... Joseph... Psst

JOSEPH (Rowan):

(Joseph sits up and rubs at his eyes dramatically) Wh... what? Who are you?

ANGEL G (Greta):

I really need to get a nametag or something... I'm the Angel Gabriel, or just Angel G if you'd prefer.

JOSEPH (Rowan):

(stares at the Angel) Gabriel is fine.

ANGEL G (Greta):

(flustered) oh, okay then. Well, Mary is pregnant.

JOSEPH (Rowan):

(splutters) Wh.. .what? That's not possible. We haven't... We're not married!

ANGEL G (Greta):

I know. It's an unusual conception. A standout in *aaaaaall* of history. And I would know, I've been around for all of it. The baby is God's and you should marry Mary. The baby is going to be the savior of humankind

JOSEPH (Rowan):

That does seem pretty important actually

ANGEL G (Greta):

Yes, that's why I'm here...

JOSEPH (Rowan):

Right. Right. Okay then. I'll marry Mary and raise God's baby as my own. Cool, got it, no worries.

ANGEL G (Greta):

You're taking this pretty well, all things considered.

JOSEPH (Rowan):

(shrugs) Well, Mary's the one who has to actually carry the baby, that seems like the harder job to me. I was already going to marry her and have children with her anyway.

ANGEL G (Greta):

Yes, I suppose that's true.

JOSEPH (Rowan):

Okay, well, I guess I'm going to go back to sleep now, I have an early start time for work tomorrow. Thanks for letting me know. *(waves Angel G away)*

ANGEL G (Greta):

(turns to face the audience and shrugs) Humans.

Narrator 4: Luke 1: 57-62 Meg McClintock

When Elizabeth was full-term in her pregnancy, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her.

On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and were calling him Zechariah after his father. But his mother intervened: "No. He is to be called John."

"But," they said, "no one in your family is named that." They used sign language to ask Zechariah what he wanted the baby to be named...

SCENE 5

(Mary, Joseph, Zechariah are crowded around Elizabeth who is holding a baby)

MARY (Clara):

Oh Elizabeth, he's beautiful. Look at his teeny, tiny weeny little baby toes. They're so cute.

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

I know, and one day soon you'll have your own little one with his own teeny weeny little baby toes

JOSEPH (Rowan):

Just a few more months now *(he puts his arm around Mary and they smile at each other)*

MARY (Clara):

What are you going to call him?

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

(glances up) I know that Zechariah would have liked to have named him after himself but I think that I'm being called to name him John

JOSEPH (Rowan):

It makes it difficult that Zechariah can't speak

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

I've explained to him why it's important that we name him John not Zechariah

JOSEPH (Rowan):

Well, we could give him a tablet to write the name he wants

MARY (Clara):

Joseph, butt out!

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

That's fine, Joseph, there's a tablet just behind me, give him that

JOSEPH (Rowan):

(hands Zechariah an iPad which he writes on. Turns the tablet around and it says "His name is John")

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

(jumps up and hugs him) Oh Zechariah, I knew you'd listen if I explained why it was important

ZECHARIAH (Hoth):

(sputters and coughs, surprised he is regaining his voice, very dramatic) Of course Elizabeth, after talking to the angel Gabriel and then listening to you once I had lost my own voice I realised how important it was that I listened to you and your perspective on all things, not just on the naming of our son

MARY (Clara):

I told you it was important that you used your voice, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

Yes, yes, I know Mary. Thank you for your support

MARY (Clara):

Anytime. *(sighs)* Now, any advice on how to prepare for this baby?!

Song: Hark the herald angels sing TIS 303

SCENE 6

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

842...843...844...845 (*has hands out and seems to somehow be counting on their hand*)

SHEP Anthony (Amelie):

Why are you insisting on counting sheep. You know it makes us sleepy

JEFF (Ruby):

(yawns dramatically and sighs)

SHEP Anthony (Amelie):

See!

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

That doesn't count. Jeff is always tired!

SHEP Murray (Tameka):

No he's not. *(pauses)* Just... most of the time

(Angel G and some younger angels arrive and stand and watch bemusedly)

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

Great! Now, was I up to 845 or 846? I guess I'm going to have to restart my count.

SHEP Anthony, JEFF, and SHEP Murray:

NO!

(One of the little angels giggles. The shepherds turn around and stare at the angels)

SHEP Anthony (Amelie):

Who are you?

(Gabriel fusses at the angels, making them straighten up and fix their clothes)

ANGEL G (Greta):

I'm Angel G, and these are some trainee angels

SHEP Murray (Tameka):

Angel G?

ANGEL G (Greta):

(sighs dramatically) The Angel Gabriel?

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

Right, Gabriel, that makes more sense. Why do you have so many trainees. Why there's...
one, two *(continues for the appropriate number of trainees, preferably 3-5)*

ANGEL G (Greta):

We've been doing a lot more human announcements lately so we got a funding approval to add some trainees. I'm handling their training and eventually going to be their team leader!

SHEP Anthony (Amelie):

Okay then. What are you doing here? We're watching over our flock

T ANGEL 2 (Lillian):

He's not doing a very good job of it, is he?

(everyone turns to look at Jeff who is sleeping standing)

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

See! I told you that he's always sleepy!

ANGEL G (Greta):

Well, he needs to hear this. How do we wake him up?

Shepherd Emma, Anthony, and Murray:

(the shepherds glance at each other and gather close around Jeff). WAKE UP JEFF!

(Audience repeats: Wake up Jeff!)

JEFF (Ruby):

(Jeff startles and wakes up) Oh, sorry, I was thinking about counting the sheep and just fell asleep

ANGEL G (Greta):

Well, try not to fall asleep again. *(turns to face trainee angels)* Right, just like we practiced

T ANGEL 2 (Lillian):

Do not be afraid!

T ANGEL 3 (Imogen):

We bring you good news that will bring great joy to all the people

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Today in... in... the Town of D...David a savior has been... has been.... Has been born unto you

T ANGEL 3 (Imogen):

He is the Messiah, the Lord

T ANGEL 2 (Lillian):

This will be a sign to you

T ANGEL 3 (Imogen):

You will find a baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Glory to God in the highes... in the highes... in the high... HEAVEN, in the highest Heaven, and on Earth p...p...peace to those on whom his ... ummm... his... flavour? No... umm his f...favour! Favour!!, on whom his favour rests

ANGEL G (Greta):

(points at each trainee angel in turn) excellent, wonderful, exceptional... you. Well, we will discuss your performance later.

(T angel 4 looks down sadly and the other trainees gather around them until a shepherd clears their throat)

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

So, there's a special baby that has been born

ANGEL G (Greta):

That's correct! Angels, let us depart.

T Angel 2 (Lillian):

Yay, Let's go get an iced coffee!

(Angel G and the trainee angels leave)

(Once they have all left the shepherds turn to face each other. Jeff has fallen asleep again)

SHEP Murray (Tameka):

So, I guess we should go to Bethlehem and see this baby, then

Shepherd Emma (Harriet):

But what about all the sheep we have to *count!*?!

SHEP Anthony (Amelie):

They'll be fine for a few days. The bigger issue is that we need to wake up Jeff again

Shepherd Emma, Anthony & Murray:

WAKE UP JEFF

(Audience repeats: "Wake Up Jeff!")

JEFF (Ruby):

(Startles awake)

Oh, sorry, I was thinking about the sheep jumping over a gate...

SHEP Murray (Tameka):

Come on, let's go... might need to grab Jeff a coffee, too... *(grabs Jeff by the hand and pulls him away. The others follow)*

Song: Wiggles Wake Up Jeff, then Angels from the Realms of Glory (vs 1, 2 and 4)

SCENE 7

(Three wiseones are standing around chatting, Trainee angel 4 walks up and looks dejected)

W1 (Anya):

What's up little one?

W2 (Matilda):

Yeah, you okay there?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

I'm okay I guess... I just, it's this whole newborn baby who is going to be the savior of all humankind, you know? There's just a lot of pressure to get the announcements right and I get so stressed and worried about it

W3 (Amelie):

Sorry, what newborn baby? Who is going to be a savior?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

What? How come you guys don't know? Aren't you the wiseones? That's why I came to find you because I needed advice!

W1 (Anya):

We have no idea what you're talking about!

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

(stares at them blankly for a bit, the silence should be a bit uncomfortable).

Oh! (slaps themselves on the head lightly)

According to Luke you're not involved at all!

W3 (Amelie):

Luke? Who is Luke?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Oh... umm... just some guy from *(mumbles quietly)* the future.

W2 (Matilda):

Sorry, I didn't catch that

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Don't worry, in other realities you know exactly what I'm talking about

W1 (Anya):

Ah yes, multiverse

W2 (Matilda):

Ah of course, that makes sense

W3 (Amelie):

Mm.. I'm not so good at that one. I was always better at the sciences. But I'll trust that these two know what they're talking about.

W1 (Anya):

What did you want our help with in *this* universe?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Well, you see, I'm fine talking like this, you know, in a small group. But as part of my new role I have to memorise a lot of lines and it's really tricky to remember them all! And then on top of that it's hard because there's so much pressure to get it right because what if I accidentally say the wrong thing, you know? And it's like all the words just leave my *social* brain when I most need them to stay in there! Like one big giant brainfart!

W2 (Matilda):

Whoa, okay, slow down a little. That sounds like you've got a lot going on.

W1 (Anya):

It can be very tricky and it sounds like you've got a case of stage fright

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

But I love my job! I don't want to have to stop doing it

W3 (Amelie):

No, that's not what we're saying. But we might be able to help you. First, I want you to take a big deep breath.

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

When I take a big deep breath I always just start breathing fast and I can't control it

W2 (Matilda):

That's okay – it takes a lot of practice!

W3 (Amelie):

put your hand out

(The three wiseones and the angel put their hand out in front of themselves)

W3 (Amelie):

Now, draw the first side of a triangle and take a deep breath for three seconds

(The wiseones and the angel follow the instruction)

W3 (Amelie):

Draw the second side and hold the breath for three seconds

(The wiseones and the angel follow the instruction)

W3 (Amelie):

Now draw the final side, and let the breath out

(The wiseones and the angel follow the instruction)

W3 (Amelie):

Now repeat

(The wiseones and the angel follow the instruction)

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

(takes a deep breath that is much calmer) That does feel better but what if it doesn't work?
What if while I'm doing it I can't calm down still

W2 (Matilda):

There are other options

W1 (Anya):

Yeah! There's lots of things you can try

W3 (Amelie):

Like – focusing on your five senses. Look around you. I want you to focus on something you can see

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Well, I can see a whole bunch of people staring at me

W3 (Amelie):

Great, and what can you hear?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Well, they're all breathing pretty loud

W3 (Amelie):

And what can you smell?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

They all kind of...

W1 (Anya):

Focus on something other than the people watching...

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Okay... hmm... I can smell sheep and other animals outside

W3 (Amelie):

And what can you taste?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

I can still kind of taste the chocolate I ate a bit earlier when I was feeling stressed?

W2 (Matilda):

You're doing great!

W3 (Amelie):

And what can you feel?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

There's a breeze that is nice and keeping me from being too hot

W3 (Amelie):

Perfect, how do you feel now?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

I actually feel a lot better now. Thank you. I'm just so worried because Gabriel is so tough on me and I really don't want to let them down by getting it all wrong

W1 (Anya):

If how Gabriel treats you makes it worse, try and talk to them about what's going on, and let them know how you feel

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Okay! I will! Thank you so much.

(T Angel 4 hugs all of the wiseones)

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

I wish we were in a different multiverse so you had a bigger role in the story

W3 (Amelie):

What?

W2 (Matilda):

Multiverse stuff again, don't worry about it

W3 (Amelie):

Oh, okay. Well, bye!

(The wiseones look around but the angel is already gone)

Narrator: Luke 2: 15b – 21 Samuel Hall

The shepherds said: "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

When the eighth day arrived, the day of circumcision, the child was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

SCENE 8 Tableaux

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Gabriel, I know I wasn't great today but I wanted to let you know that I'm going to try better. I don't want to disappoint you but it's very difficult for me when you are hard on me because I am already very worried about getting it wrong, and you telling me I'm not good enough just makes me feel worse

ANGEL G (Greta):

Angel, I am so sorry. I was being tough on you because you have great potential. I didn't mean to make you feel worse. I know you are a beginner and everyone starts somewhere. I will try and be more mindful about how I speak with you in the future. I can see that you are going to be a wonderful addition to our team

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Thank you so much!

ANGEL G (Greta):

Thank you for speaking up Angel, I never would have realized if you hadn't told me.

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

No worries, Angel G! Let's go inside.

(The two angels join the rest of the tableaux with big smiles on their faces)

(Wiseones enter from side door)

JOSEPH (Rowan):

Who are they?

T ANGEL 4 (Clem):

Multiverse thing... don't worry about it *(gestures hand dismissively)* All right now. *(Does triangle breathing exercise)* I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people!

MARY (Clara):

Oh, look Elizabeth, you were right. He does have teeny, weeny little baby toes all of his own!

ELIZABETH (Susannah):

He's beautiful, Mary.

recording of baby John and Jesus

JOHN:

It's nice to meet you in person Jesus. I know you are going to do wonderful things for the world

JESUS:

(cheekily) Just wait until I can talk

Song: Joy to the World!

Closing thank you's and Blessing: Dave

Amen! Thank you everyone for coming tonight, and for watching from wherever you are in the world.

While there's no official supper tonight, you are very welcome to join us out in the big hall for some TimTams and cordial to hang out with the cast and all those involved in the pageant.

Before I offer the final blessing, there are a couple of quick acknowledgements to be made.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the cast...! *(applause)*

A short while ago the choir sang a beautiful piece, entitled 'Mary & Elizabeth's Song'. We dedicate that in honour of the song's composer Dee Gorman who died in October of this year. We are grateful to Dee's husband Pastor Ken Gorman, Joan Saxbury the original arranger, Ryan Marvel who arranged the version used tonight and Tinmath Presbyterian Church in Colorado. Mary & Elizabeth's Song was first performed at Tinmath Presbyterian Church on Christmas Eve 2010.

Lots of people are about to be thanked on the screen, but I'd like to give a small gift to four people in particular:

Elaine Potter for coordinating so much of the music once again – thank you Elaine.

Saide Cameron for doing a lot of the behind-the-scenes logistical work – thank you Saide

Tess Alston for helping as Assistant Director of the Pageant for the first time. Thank you

Tess.

And your biggest applause, please for the extraordinary Caitlin Mullen Beagley – writer and director of the pageant, and all-round amazing person – thank you Caitlin.

If you are keen for a bit more church over Christmas – or any time of the year, frankly – we have a glorious carols and candle light service at 11:30pm tonight. Our Christmas morning worship is at 9:30am tomorrow.

Then we are back on site on January 2nd at 9:30am for a baptism and communion – nice way to start the new year.

And now may the blessing of Christ, God with us, born in humble circumstances to people on the margins, may that blessing, may that little glimpse of God go with you, and help you to find your voice in the days and years to come.

Amen.

Choir: Amen, Go Tell It with thank you / credits

Cast (in order of appearance):	Acknowledgement of Country:	Musicians - Live:
Zechariah: Hoth Beny	Eleanor Lees	Natalie Sims (Coordinator)
Angel G: Greta Drimmel		Michael Cameron
Elizabeth:	Bible readers:	Glenice Cook
Susannah Denholm	Patrick Hall	Mikul Denison
Mary: Clara Hall	Owen Parris	Fergus Moorhouse
Voice of Jesus:	Sam Coath	Shawn Whelan
Hudson Coath	Meg McClintock	
Voice of John:	Samuel Hall	Stage hand:
Charlotte Lee		Patrick Hall
Joseph: Rowan Drimmel	Writer and Director:	
Shepherd Emma:	Caitlin Mullen-Beagley	Photographer:
Harriet Loynd		Ian Ferguson
Shepherd Anthony:	Assistant Director:	
Ruby Sanders	Tess Alston	Catering:
Shepherd Jeff:		Matthew Cameron
Amelie Brown	Production team:	Saide Cameron
Shepherd Murray:	Dave Hall	Maggie Haines
Tameka Brown	Saide Cameron	Lydia Jacka
Trainee Angel #2:	Ian Ferguson	Alistair Hunter
Lillian Sanders		A Little Room for Icecream
Trainee Angel #3:	AV Team:	
Imogen Lees	Ray Cameron	
Trainee Angel #4:	Mal Rowe	Front of house:
Clementine Loynd	Shawn Whelan	Kirsty Bennett
Wise One #1:	Jamie Thom	Julie McKinnon
Anya Kvensakul		Linda Wannan
Wise One #2:	Music Coordinator:	
Matilda Brown	Elaine Potter	
Wise One #3:		
Amelie Brown		

Virtual Choir (pre-recorded):

1. Goin' to Bethlehem, by Jay Althouse, sold to Elaine Potter by J. W. Pepper & Son Inc., mixed by Julia Potter
2. Mary & Elizabeth's Song, by Dee Gorman, arranged by Ryan Marvel. Used with permission, mixed by Shawn Whelan
3. Amen Go Tell It, arranged by Mary McDonald, Traditional Spirituals, sold to Elaine Potter by J. W. Pepper & Son Inc., mixed by Shawn Whelan

Vocalists: Saide Cameron (1,2,3), Ian Ferguson, (1,2,3) Jessica Kvensakul (1,2,3), Catherine Leslie (1,2,3), Jason Minator (3), Elaine Potter (1,2,3), Kate Scull (1), Natalie Sims (1,2,3), Geoff Thompson (1), Amelia Ware (2,3), Shawn Whelan (1,2,3)

We offer our recording of '**Mary & Elizabeth's Song**' in memory of Dee Gorman and offer our thanks to Pastor Ken Gorman, Joan Saxbury, Ryan Marvel and Tinmath Presbyterian Church for both giving us permission to use the song and for making it possible.

Artwork and Images:

Elizabeth and Mary artwork: Soo Lai Yin (Ann), photographed by Ian Ferguson

Ultrasound Jesus and John: <https://community.whattoexpect.com/forums/august-2019-babies/topic/ultrasound-pic13-weeks-75565904.html>

Baby Jesus image: <https://www.babycentre.co.uk/a25011815/arabic-baby-names-on-the-rise>

Baby John image: <https://www.verywellfamily.com/arabic-baby-names-5120234>

Zechariah in the Temple: <https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/zechariah-john/>

The birth of Jesus with shepherds: Artist: Jesus MAFA, 1973, Cameroon. Sourced from Vanderbilt University Divinity Library: <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48387>