



Night in Bethlehem
North Andover, MA

Script
2017

Flow of Pilgrims

Arrival:

1. Pilgrims travel from Main Street & Water Street parking lots.
Meet shepherds at fires on Main St & Water St
2. Pilgrims encounter Inn Keeper at the Adoration entrance
3. Pilgrims enter Bethlehem at Water Street entrance under awning
Greeters direct to Registration Table
4. Register with tickets (Registration team directs sign up the Census)
5. In the census tent have the pilgrims: a. sign the census b. Receive pouch with coins
6. Relay team ushers pilgrims to pews and they interact with pilgrims while they are waiting for the 12-15 pilgrims to begin the tour.
7. Tour guides interact with pilgrims and begin the tour at:
8. Palace - where Baptismal Font is.
They enter Palace to pay homage to King Herod and Queen. Roman guards and tax collector interact with pilgrims.
King asks them if they know the way to the newborn King!
9. Guide leads pilgrims to Bakery in Day chapel ~ 10 minutes in shop
They learn how bread was made and crush the grain with rocks and knead the dough.
The bakers need help to satisfy all the pilgrims to Bethlehem who are coming home for the census
10. Guide leads pilgrims to Carpentry shop in crying room ~ 10 minutes
The carpenters are so busy making dreidels for all the families celebrating Hanukkah and teach the pilgrims how to play
11. Guide leads pilgrims to in Main Street gathering area Marketplace.
Shopkeepers will tell of other pilgrims telling them about a baby who was born in a stable – could it be the Messiah? Pilgrims will~ 10 minutes
12. Guide leads pilgrims through in kitchen area, into reception and finally St. Theresa Room for the Jewish home
13. Guide leads pilgrims to synagogue in Cana room ~ 10 minutes in shop
Rabbi teaches about the prophesy of Isaiah which foretells that the Messiah will be born – pilgrims write a message to the Messiah and bring it with them
14. Guide leads pilgrims to Inn #2 in St. John's Room ~ 10 minutes in shop
Innkeepers tell the pilgrims that they have no room at all, but invite them to stay for a minute and break bread on this important night of Hanukkah.
Shepherds burst into Saint John room to tell Christmas narrative of Luke
Shepherd invites pilgrims to stable, "Follow me".
15. Shepherds lead pilgrims through the hall to stable in Adoration Chapel ~ 10 minutes
Angels sing "*Silent Night*" in hallway
Mary and Joseph welcome their guests to the stable.
Wise men come in from stair well and announce their gifts and pay homage to the newborn King. All leave their prayers to the Messiah in a basket at the crèche.
16. The guide leads them out to hallway where
Angels sing "*Go tell it on the Mountain*"
Guide leads them upstairs to Christmas 2017 and angels hand each pilgrim an activity book (Those who cannot climb the stairs will be led to the elevator through opposite door.)

COSTUMES

Specific costumes are available for the following roles:

- Mary and Baby Jesus
- The 3 Wisemen
- King Herod & his Queen
- Roman Guards
- Angels
- The Camel!
- beggars

All other characters will have costumes available to them. However, **many might prefer to create their own costume.** It's simple! Keep the colors at earth tones – beige, brown, mustard, dark red, dark blue or dark green (not purple – it's for royalty!) For the base, use a long skirt, long dress or a sheet with a dark long-sleeved jersey or turtle neck. Add some layers of cloth, like **parshamas** over it and tie it with a rope at the waist. And remember – all men and women need a covering over their head. Another **parshama** or pillowcase works great and you could keep it steady with a tie around your head. Keep in mind, the dark tones and simple design – not brightly colored at all, not flowery. Paisley is fine. For feet – no sneakers unless they are dark. Sandals are best, but it's a long night – be comfortable! No jewelry – you are simple shepherds, travelers, shop-keepers. For outdoor shepherds – dress warmly underneath!!!

SCRIPT

(In chronological order of the tour)

ALL ACTORS SHOULD BE READY TO AD LIB WITH PILGRIMS AND EACH OTHER!

Main St. & Water St. Shepherds Innkeeper #1

Main St. Shepherds (located in grassy island with fire and bales of hay): “Look at the star over Bethlehem! I have never seen one so bright! Surely something special is going to happen this starry night! Are you looking for the city gates? Go off to the North of the city walls and find the Eastern Gate!”

Water St. Shepherds (located on flat area to left of awning with fire and bales of hay.): “Welcome travelers. See my wonderful goats. Have you heard about the shepherds who have seen angels singing about the Glory of God? Could it be that the Messiah has come at last? You must be weary. See if the innkeeper has any room for you!”
(Direct to the Inn at the Adoration Entrance)

Innkeeper (bursts through the adoration door, saying):
“The Inn is so full – We couldn’t even squeeze in a very pregnant woman, who was ready to give birth! I had to send her out back to the stable!”
We’re running out of bread, out of everything!
You’d better hurry into Bethlehem to find a place to stay!” (Direct to Water St. Church entrance)

Greeters (at right of gathering area): “Welcome to our fair village of Bethlehem! Surely you have come like so many to complete your census! Please visit my friends there to help you find your way!”
(Direct them to Registration Table)

Registrars: (in front of Elevator) Ad lib with wondering where they are from. Ask them their names and receive their tickets to see if they are welcome by King Herod to enter the city. If no tickets, direct them to sit on the bench to await permission from the King.
(Direct the ticketed to Census Tent)

Census Tent

Census taker: “Welcome, children of King David! We are so happy to have you back home in Bethlehem this evening. Please come and sign the official registry so that our noble ruler, King Herod, may number you among his proud citizens. The king also wants you to give you a gift for your obedience – spend it wisely.”

Relay team: “Come, come! Wait for your audience with our King!” (Lead them to the pews to wait for their tour to depart.)

Pews

Tour Guides: All who are waiting for their tour to begin should be ad libbing with the pilgrims and with one another to make their wait interesting and lively! When the palace is free: “Our esteemed ruler, King Herod, will now see you. Please reverence to our leader.” (Take a basket and lead them to the palace.)

Palace

King Herod and Queen Mariamne and Court guards

Herod: “Ah, Pilgrims. I see you are here to complete my census. My wife, Queen Mariamne, and I wish to hear all about your travels.”

Mariamne: “The king speaks true. Where are you headed? Are you from Bethlehem?”

Herod: “We have heard stories of a child... a male child. Have you heard them? I would be very interested in any information you may come across. Those who flame my interest will be rewarded with gold.”

Guide: “Come, we must hurry if we are to find a place to stay this night.” (Bow to Herod and lead to bakery.)

Bakery (Day Chapel)

Shop Keeper: (Receiving the 1 empty basket from the guide) “What? One basket? What good is one basket? I have dozens of orders!”

Guide: “She says she will send more later.”

Shop Keeper: “Hah! We shall see. Everyone is running out of everything. I have even heard of an Inn keeper who is taking money and sending people to sleep in the stable. Can you believe it? And what’s worse, I’m told that is a woman with child. Such a disgrace, to send to pregnant woman to sleep in a stable. Such is life in Bethlehem tonight. But welcome to my shop! Will you help me make more bread for all the pilgrims tonight?” (Bakers teach pilgrims to crush the grain and knead the dough.)

Guide: (after 10 minutes) “Come, Come, we must continue our search for lodging!” (leads the pilgrims out to organ and around to crying room – the carpenters shop)

Carpenters shop

Shop Keeper: “A census during Hanukkah. Only the Romans could come up with such a recipe for chaos. And now the whole world seems to want dreidels and other foolish gifts. Look at this trinket I am asked to make! Some artist has decided that this is so important that she needs them tonight! So I make dreidels and I make trinkets. But do you know what it takes to work with wood?” (Carpenters teach them how to play dreidels and decorate sheep)

Guide: (after 10 minutes) “Come, come! Let us go on our way!” (leads to gathering area)

Marketplace (Gathering area)

- Shop Keeper: “All day I have been watching pilgrims wander through our town and hearing the most incredible stories. Then the shepherds came and the stories all seemed to circle around this baby that was to be born. A shepherd, who was filled with joy said that the prophecy of Isaiah will be fulfilled this day. A child will be born, the Messiah, who will be the King of the Jews. To honor Him, we have these crowns. Decorate them in honor of the Messiah. He will bring light into our darkness. Make a candle to remember him! “
- Guide: (after 10 minutes): “Come, come! Surely we will find a place to rest!” (Exit through the kitchen area, to the pastoral center desk, to St. Theresa’s room)

Jewish Home (St. Theresa Room)

- Adult: (while children are playing dreidel) Welcome and explain the symbols:
Mezuzah – touch and kiss, shema (shah-mah) enclosed in mezuzah, the greatest commandment
Menorah – Hanukah starts tomorrow, excited to remember God’s goodness
Pottery holds oil and flour
Teach them to sing and dance Shalom Chavarim
- Guide: (after 10 minutes) “Come, the night is cold. Let us make haste to find shelter.” (lead to synagogue – out to fish tank – take right to corridor - Cana Room)

Synagogue (Cana Room)

Rabbi: Welcome – introduces himself and his students. He brings everyone to the holy ark and shows them the Sacred Scripture scrolls. He or one of the students reads the prophecy from the Book of the Prophet Micah (5:1-3):

*But you, **Bethlehem**
least among the tribes of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time
when **she who is to give birth has borne,**
He shall take his place as shepherd
by the strength of the LORD,
by the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
And they shall dwell securely, **for now his greatness**
shall reach to the ends of the earth: He shall be peace.*

Rabbi: Explains that the Messiah is to be born right here in Bethlehem and invites them to write a prayer to Him. “Each of you, please take a piece of parchment and write down your prayer to our long-awaited Messiah, who is the Savior of the world. If you meet the new King, you may give him your prayer.”

Guide: (after 10 minutes) "Come this way! Perhaps we will find the newborn King!" (Lead to Inn #2 – through sacristy to St. John's Room)

Inn # 2 (St. John's Room)

Wife: Waits outside door to Inn while sweeping the floor. When a tour comes out of Sacristy, she knocks on door of inn and shouts to husband, "Open the door for the travelers!"

Husband: "NO ROOM."

Wife: "Just let them sit down and have a bite to eat."

Husband: opens the door and reluctantly and lets them inside.

Wife: stays outside ushering folks in and sweeping camel poop off children's shoes, while complaining about her grumpy husband. Then she enters the room and asks if he has fed the travelers. She complains that she has to do everything around this place, then encourages guests to eat some bread before they travel on.

Husband: asks where everyone is from. (He pretends he never heard of North Andover or the USA). Asks if they have heard any stories about a King that has been born this night. He and she engage the children especially in what they may know.

Story Shepherds: Bang and burst through the back door of inn, very excited and begin their story.

Shepherd: "My name is _____. My family and I are shepherds. We don't usually come into town, but tonight the most remarkable thing happened. Angels came to visit us! It is the most astounding thing! Angels came and told us of a young couple coming to Bethlehem. They told us about the baby that they were going to have tonight. A special baby that would grow to become a king. A baby who was in fact the Son of God and would forgive our sins and save our souls for heaven. So we rushed to town to find that baby and now we have found him in a stable. Can you believe it? We looked in all the best houses first and found nothing. And then in all the best Inns. Nothing still. And then we heard of a baby being born in a stable and there He was. Let me tell you the whole story:"

(Shepherds tell the story in their own words from Luke 2)

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ^[a] the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(After their story begins, Husband looks by sacristy to see if next group is coming along. Wife checks back door by day chapel to see if the group before has finished. If ready, she says she hears angels singing and opens door to invite travelers to continue on the journey. They look around the room to see if anyone left anything, especially the children's notes they made for the baby Jesus. When the pilgrims leave they put out more bread for the next group, take a deep breath, and enjoy the quiet!)

Shepherd: "And now you can go and see him as well and meet his family. Follow me!"

Angel Hall

Angels are holding candles and singing *Silent Night* as pilgrims move to stable
"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."

Holy Family in Stable (adoration chapel)

Joseph: (Very excited) Come in, come in! It is wonderful to see so many visitors! Come in out of the cold. My name is Joseph and this is my wife, Mary and our baby, Jesus. There are so many of you. I am sorry we have nothing to offer, no food or drink. We don't have much of anything. You see we just got here.....

Mary: (Who has been kneeling over the manger attending to Jesus) Joseph! SSSSHHHHHH

Joseph: Oh yes. (Quietly) SSSSHHHH! (To the group) She just got the baby back to sleep.

Mary: (Turning from the manger and facing the group – with some effort and the help of Joseph) You will have to excuse my husband. I think the strain of this last week has almost made him crazy.

Joseph: And who wouldn't be crazy? (Helping Mary to her seat in front of the manger) Crazy with worry. What a terrible thing to have to make my wife travel so many miles from home on a donkey just when she is ready to give birth. You see we live in Nazareth, which is a 6 day journey from here. But, I was born here in Bethlehem and the law says that I have to register for the census with my family in the town where I was born. And after 6 days, we have nothing; I struggled even to find cloth to wrap our baby and keep him warm.

Mary: We are people just like you, but tonight we have all been given a wonderful gift, the gift of Jesus. Because He is special. He is God's special gift to every one of us and He will live His life as an example of how we can live. He will be kind to people, like we can be kind. He will be generous, like we can be generous. And He will care for people like we can care for people and then He will do something that we can't do. He will give His life so that we will all live with Him one day in Heaven. That is how much God loves you, He wants you to live a good life here and then live forever in Heaven. That is why tonight is such a wonderful night, a night to be truly happy. How does that song go Joseph?

Joseph: What song?

Mary: You know the song, the one those other visitors sang the one the angels sing.

Joseph: Oh Yes umm – Oh come let us adore Him (with Mary) oh come let us adore him (with the group) oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

3 Kings enter

Caspar: We have come from the East to pay homage to our King:
I am Caspar and give to You the gift of Gold.

Melchior: We followed the star to find You.
I am Melchior and give to You the gift of Frankincense.

Balthazar: We have traveled so far to meet You, dear King.
I am Balthazar and give to You the gift of Myrrh.

Guide: Dear Mary and Joseph. These pilgrims have brought their prayers to present to your Son, the Savior of the world. (Tour guide begins the presentation of the gifts by placing the parchment in the basket and bowing to the Baby).

Mary & Joseph: Thank you for your kindness. Have a blessed night. Shalom!

- Guide: leads them out of the stable to the hall where angels sing “*Go Tell it on the Mountain*” and directs them to the stairs to the parish hall, Christmas 2017. (Offers elderly and disabled the elevator.)
- Angels: 2 angels pass out activity books to each pilgrim and all angels sing:
“Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.”
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Preparation for Roles

For some tidbits for conversation see:

Luke 2: 1-20 (nativity)

Acts 2: 1-13 (good geographical references)

Isaiah 7: 14 (prophecy of the messiah to be born of a virgin)

Micah 5: 2-5 (prophecy of messiah to be born in Bethlehem)

Paul wrote to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Romans, Thessalonians

Look up <http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanukkah> (history of Hanukkah)

<http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tefillin> (what the rabbi wears on his forehead and arm)

Isaiah on the Messiah – Isaiah 4:2-6, chapter 9 & 11

Playing a role: When you are playing a role, you have to **know** everything about the character you are playing... Even if you only have one line! The more information you gather, the more confident you become.

Questions You Should Answer Concerning Your Character:

What is your name? You may be a shopkeeper or a soldier, or an angel, but each of these has a name. Decide what you want yours to be. Some of you have Latin or names, others may need to do some research!

How old are you? If you are playing someone older or younger, you have to move accordingly. Once you decide your age...

What year were you born? Everyone is BC. Some of you can be exact. (For example, Herod was born in 73 BC.) If you are playing a specific character, look it up!

Where were you born? Those Hebrew that live in Bethlehem, obviously were born there, or they would be traveling to their own birthplace. Roman soldiers could be from Rome or Greece or a variety of other places.

How long have you been in Bethlehem?

How long since you have seen your family?

Are you married?

Do you have siblings? Are they with you?

Can you read? Write?

What do you do for your job?

Bakers get up VERY EARLY to begin making bread. Rolling dough is backbreaking work.

Marketplace Sellers must set up and breakdown their stalls each day. This makes for a very long day. They must haggle to get the most for their product. They must compete for the buyers.

Soldiers work day and night. Some do patrols to keep peace, others collect taxes. Still others guard the king and the palace.

Shepherds are always at work. They often sleep out in the field with the sheep to ensure they are not bothered by wolves or other predators. They must keep count of the flock and keep them together as best they can. They have to feed them, sometimes going hungry themselves!

Angels live with God. ... How lucky are they!! Angels look after everyone, helping whenever they can. They are blessed with the gift of song and often sing God's praise.