

Bethlehem News Radio

A Children's Christmas Play

by Matthew B. Gage

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CAST

EMCEE - Judah - Keeps the news flowing with lively commentary.

SPORTS - Zachariah - Sports reporter.

NEWS - Esther - Station news director.

REPORTER - Hannah - News reporter.

WEATHER - Gideon - Station weatherman.

TRAFFIC - Levi - Traffic reporter.

ACT I

SONG - CHRISTMAS BELLS

EMCEE - "I'm Judah and you are listening to the Morning News on KBTM. We are here to bring you all the latest news, sports, weather and traffic. We'll have your morning headlines after a quick look at traffic with Levi."

TRAFFIC - "This traffic report is brought to you by the Imperial Revenue Service who wants to remind you that they've got what it takes to take what you've got! Well, the major hotspot right now is the Jerusalem road about a mile out of town where an over-turned camel has caravans backed up for miles! Take the alternate trail toward Jericho if you are in the area."

NEWS - "This is Esther with your morning headlines. The biggest story of the day is of course the census. As mandated by Caesar Augustus, people from all over Israel are returning to their homes to be registered for Roman taxes. For a report on its local impact, here's Hannah."

REPORTER - "Esther, homes and hotels are overflowing with family arriving for the census. The roads in and around town are filled with travelers. Space is at a premium. I asked around last night and could not find a single hotel room available. I ran into a couple who are expecting their first child just any day now. They had tried every place in town and could not find a room. Finally, the manager at the Motel 5 let them at least stay in their stable to get in out of the cold."

EMCEE - "Motel 5? I hope that they got there early... they leave the light on until midnight and go to bed. We'll have weather after this."

SONG - MARY HAD A BABY BOY

ACT II

EMCEE - "Welcome back. Let's check the weather with Gideon."

WEATHER - "Thanks, Judah. This weather report is brought to you by Honest Obadiah's Used Camel Lot. Well, yesterday was a beautiful day with plenty of sunshine. I'm sure you noticed the red sunset last night, so I expect to have another beautiful day today. You know the old saying, 'Red sky at night, shepherd's delight, red sky in morning, shepherd take warning.' We also have a report that Grandpa Moses' knee has started to swell, so expect storms very soon."

EMCEE - "Say, Gideon, what's the latest on the unusual star?"

WEATHER - "I have had numerous folks ask about it. There is indeed a bright star that has recently begun to shine down right on Bethlehem. It has created quite a stir among local astronomers. No one is really quite sure what it is, where it came from, or why it is here."

EMCEE - "There are some theories about it, right?"

WEATHER - "I've heard a few about planets, comets, and stars. Whatever it is, it is truly a special event. Nothing like this has happened here before."

EMCEE - "Do you get the feeling that it might have a special meaning?"

WEATHER - "In Bethlehem? Nothing special has happened here since King David was alive. I think that if God were trying to tell us something, he'd use angels and not a star!"

EMCEE - "Thanks for the report, Gideon. We'll have sports next."

SONG - TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR

ACT III

EMCEE - "Let's go to Zachariah at the sports desk."

SPORTS - "In news from the Olympic Games, the much anticipated match up of Rome and Greece in Greco-Roman wrestling took place with Greece winning the gold medal. The Romans said they would be good sports about the loss, and the Greek wrestling team was fed to the lions the next day."

"For all of you local high school sports fans, the soccer game between Bethlehem and Bethany was canceled last night after a group of crazed shepherds ran onto the field. Unable clear the field of sheep and shepherds, the game is postponed until next week."

EMCEE - "Wait a minute... 'crazed shepherds'?"

SPORTS - "You heard me right. Shepherds came pouring out of the hills and onto the field. They claimed to have seen angels in the sky! No one could calm them down! First that star and now these insane shepherds... that's a lot of exciting stuff for sleepy ol' Bethlehem!"

EMCEE - "Well, if something does happen, you can count on KBTM to cover it! You know our station's motto: 'If we don't cover it, it didn't happen!' We'll be right back with a final look at traffic."

SONG - RING, RING, RING THE BELLS

ACT IV

EMCEE - "It's time to wrap things up here for the KBTM Morning News. Levi, what's the latest on traffic?"

TRAFFIC - "The overturned camel on the Jerusalem road has now been cleared so traffic is flowing smoothly through that area. Do allow for delays as you head out for the census."

EMCEE - "Thanks, Levi. Gideon, how about the weather today?"

WEATHER - "Pretty today, but storms on the way. I have just heard of five more swollen knees."

EMCEE - "Thanks, Gideon. Esther, what stories will we be talking about today?"

NEWS - "We've got some major developments in the local health care crisis. We know Bethlehem Hospital is overcrowded and understaffed. Hannah has more."

REPORTER - "Yes, Esther, we have just learned that a baby boy was born last night in a stable! I rushed to the scene and found the baby sleeping in a manger of all things! Mother and child are in good condition and resting now. Bethlehem Hospital is refusing to comment."

SPORTS - "Stars, wild shepherds, and now babies born in stables! What in the world is going on in Bethlehem?"

EMCEE - "That's a great question, Zachariah. Whatever it is, stay tuned to KBTM. You won't miss a thing, because we won't miss a thing."

SONG - GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Christmas Bells

Tune of "Jingle Bells"

Christmas bells, Christmas bells,
Ring them all the day.
Tell the world that Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day!
Christmas bells, Christmas bells,
Ring them all the day.
Tell the world that Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day!

Christmas bells, Christmas bells,
Ring them all the day.
Tell the world that Jesus came
To take our sins away!
Christmas bells, Christmas bells,
Ring them all the day.
Tell the world that Jesus came
To take our sins away!

Mary Had A Baby Boy

tune of "Mary Had A Little Lamb"

Mary had a baby boy, baby boy, baby
boy,
Mary had a baby boy, a long, long time
ago.

In the town of Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Bethlehem,
In the town of Bethlehem, on that
Christmas morn.

Born that day was our Savior, our Savior,
our Savior,
Born that day was our Savior, He came to
die for me.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Christmas Star

Tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star,
A miracle is what you are.
Shine on Bethlehem tonight,
On the stable shine your light,
Jesus Christ was born today,
Born to take our sins away.

Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star,
Bringing wise men from afar.
By your glowing light so strong,
They have made their journey long,
'Til they found where Jesus lay,
In a manger filled with hay.

Ring, Ring, Ring the Bells

tune of "Row, Row, Row your Boat"

Ring, ring, ring the bells,
Ring them loud and clear,
Tell the people everywhere
That Christmas time is near.

Ring, ring, ring the bells,
On this Christmas morn,
Tell the people everywhere
That Jesus Christ is born.

Ring, ring, ring the bells,
On this Christmas day,
Tell the people everywhere,
That Jesus is the way.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

tune of "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.