SCENE 4
SHEPHERDS & ANGELS

SHEPHERDS stand talking quietly around a campfire as GUIDE and WISEMEN approach. ANGELS CHOIR is positioned in a blind uphill, unseen. ANGEL OF THE LORD waits unseen uphill.

GUIDE and WISEMEN stop at the top of the pathway that leads down to the SHEPHERDS. ASSISTANT GUIDE signals GUIDE with light when everyone is in place.

GUIDE
My, it’s cold tonight. Look! There are some shepherds. Let’s see if they will let us warm up by their fire. Come along with me.

WISEMAN 1
I think we’ll go on. We’re anxious to get to Bethlehem. Is it that way?

GUIDE
Pointing
Yes, right that way. We’ll catch up with you later. Farewell!

WISEMEN stand in a line across the pathway to BETHLEHEM and direct GROUP down to SHEPHERDS. WISEMEN exit once ASSISTANT GUIDE passes with the last of the GROUP. SHEPHERDS greet GROUP warmly as they approach.

GUIDE
Shalom my friends! May we warm ourselves by your fire?

SHEPHERD 1
Why, hello there! Yes, please! Come warm yourselves.
SHEPHERDS and GUIDE keep people on the walkway with their backs to the ANGEL CHOIR

SHEPHERD 2
Have you been traveling long?

GUIDE
We have just come from Jerusalem. We’ve been traveling with three men that have come from far away. They looked important. Called themselves Magi. They were very anxious to get to Bethlehem, and have gone on ahead of us.

SHEPHERD 1
Why are they going to Bethlehem?

GUIDE

Oh, it is exciting! They are looking for the Messiah!

SHEPHERD 1

Really? The Messiah?

GUIDE

Yes, yes! But first let me tell you what happened in Jerusalem! We were at the temple when we were summoned to the palace to have an audience with the king!

SHEPHERD 2

You saw the king?

GUIDE

Yes!

SHEPHERD 1

Why did you see him?

GUIDE

Well, these three men have been following a star, certain that it leads to the new king, the Messiah! They hoped King Herod would know where he is to be born.

SHEPHERD 4

We've been talking about the ancient prophecies at night out here by the fire, and we too believe the coming of the Messiah is near.

ANGEL OF THE LORD appears in SPOTLIGHT

ANGEL OF THE LORD

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth! Don't be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in Bethlehem, the City of David, a Savior has been born for you; He is Christ the Lord! This will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger.

LIGHTS COME ON the ANGEL CHOIR who sing "Joy to the World/Gloria." After angels finish singing, LIGHTS OFF. SHEPHERDS shout in wonder and look around to see where angels have gone.

SHEPHERD 3

Can you believe what we have seen! This is Amazing!

SHEPHERD 1

Let's go to Bethlehem and find this child, the Savior, the angels have told us about!

GUIDE

Yes, let's go! Look! There's the star again!

SHEPHERD 3

Good, let’s follow the star.

SHEPHERDS and GUIDE encourage the GROUP to go with them to Bethlehem. SHEPHERDS line the path and walk along with the GROUP for a time but quietly fade away back to the fire.

GUIDE

Excitedly

Can you believe what we have seen? Did you hear the Angels sing? It was so beautiful! Have you ever seen angels before? I haven’t. I feel so blessed! We must stay together. There are many dangers along the way.

GUIDE continues talking about the weather and the roads, the taxes we pay and how the roads are still so bad until GROUP is approached by mounted soldiers.