

The Christmas Treasure
By Rev. Todd Farnsworth
December 15, 2019

(Carolers enter down center aisle singing.
They line up on the platform, facing congregation)

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel,

Fa la la, la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus.

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Orah: That was great boys and girls! You are doing a great job singing!

1. Excuse me.

Orah: Yes, 1?

1. Excuse me but what is a “yuletide treasure?”

Orah: A what?

1. A “yuletide treasure”? Is there also an “I’ll-tide treasure?” and if so, what does it look like?

Orah: I’ll tide? Yuletide? Ohhh, *yuletide!* “Yule” is an old fashioned word for “Christmas.”

All: Ohhh, Christmas

1. Is that the treasure?

Orah: Is what the treasure?

1. That box over there. Is that the Christmas treasure we’re supposed to be telling about?

Orah: I don’t know. I was so busy singing I didn’t even notice that box.

Let’s open it and see what’s inside.

2. Ohhh there’s a light!

Orah: A lantern! And it’s lit! That reminds me of a story...

2. ...Maybe it’s so that we can see what else is inside. Look what I found!

(She pulls out a blue robe and a brown robe. She hands the brown robe to 3) Here. Put this on.

3. Do I have to?

2. Yes you have to. It’s the first part of the treasure. Remember? An angel came unto Mary and said...

Head Angel: (voice through speakers) “Hail O favored one...the Lord is with you!”

2. I’ll bet she was afraid.

3. I would have been afraid, too!

2. But even though she was afraid, she listened to the angel.

Head Angel: Don’t be afraid, Mary. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.

3: That was such good news...sort of. But then they had to leave where they were and go to Bethlehem to pay their taxes.

2. Mary was ready to have her baby but when they got to Bethlehem every place they tried to get a room, was full!

(as 3 tells the story, the doors pass in front of him. Orah carries door number z)

3. They went to the x

And they went to the y

Finally, they went to z where the innkeeper said...

Orah with a mustache: ROUND BACK! ...And as they went to the back of the inn they found a stable. And in the stable, they found a manger. And in the manger is where baby Jesus was born. Ohh, we know a song about that, don’t we? We should sing that song.

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Orah: Wow, that was beautiful (and it's a good thing we found a traveling piano player to help us sing!).

Look at you two sitting there like Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus!

I wonder what else is in the box?

4. (reaches in and pulls out shepherd costumes and angel costumes. Kids put them on while 4 talks) Ohh, look here! I remember this part of the Christmas story.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields (that's us) keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, "Do not be afraid! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the City of David, A Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. this will be a sign for you, you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

5. That must have been pretty awesome for a bunch of grungy of shepherds!

4. I know. An amazing angel and then a bunch of little angels all came to them to say,

Angels: "a Savior is born unto you!"

4. Can you imagine it?

Orah: Imagine it? I think we have a song all about it. Do you remember, *Angels We have heard on high?*

Angels and Shepherds: Yayyyy!

Orah: Let's sing 2 vss of that one (vss 1-2)

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly over the plain,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tiding did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

(after song)

6. What else is in that treasure chest?

7. Ohhh, look at these.

Orah: Those must be the crowns for the Magi that visited Jesus.

6. And these must be the gifts. I guess they're near the bottom of the box because they came a lot later, right?

8. Right. The Magi had to follow a star. Remember? After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked,

6: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

8. But King Herod was meaner than Mr. Grinch! He tried to trick the Magi into finding baby Jesus.

7. He wanted to kill the baby!

All: Booooooooooooo

8. I know, but God had bigger plans. The Magi followed the star in the sky. They brought gifts to the baby.

7. Just like people bring Jesus gifts today.

8. Kind of like an offering?

Orah: Kind of like an offering. People bring all kinds of gifts to Jesus. When we collect coats for people who are cold...

2. Or Peanut butter for people who are hungry.

4. Or walk in the CROP Walk to let everyone know that we're trying to end hunger.

5. Or when we send money to help people whose homes have been knocked down by a storm

Orah: All of those things are gifts that we bring to Jesus.

6. Can we act that part out?

7. Can we show what everyone brings the baby?

8 (to shepherds) Will you folks help us?

Shepherds: Yayyy!

Orah: Do you know the song?

6,7,8: Of course!

Orah: Then let's hear it!

(kings and sheps run to back as song begins. Sheps bring in symbols of Peanut butter, coat drive, crop walk, wider outreach, neighbors link, etc)

We Three Kings

We Three Kings

All: We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

6. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

7. Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

8. Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Orah: Well doesn't that make a pretty picture. I see that we even have a camel!

2. I remember other animals, too!

All: Yeahhh!

Orah: Will you help us bring some animals to tell the story about baby Jesus?

Young Children: Yes!

Orah: While they are getting their costumes on, let's sing The Friendly Beasts.

All: Yayyyyy!

The Friendly Beasts

Jesus our brother kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable of wood
And the friendly beasts around him stood
Jesus our brother kind and good

Donkey: "I" said the donkey shaggy and brown
I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried him safely to Bethlehem town
"I" said the donkey shaggy and brown

Sheep: "We" said the sheep with the curly horns
We gave him our wool for his blanket warm
And he wore our coat on that Christmas morn
"We" said the sheep with a curly horn

Dove: "I" said the dove from the rafters high
Cooed him to sleep that he should not cry
We cooed him to sleep my love and I
"I" said the dove from the rafters high

All: Thus every beast remembering it well
In the glowing light was proud to tell
Of the gifts that they gave Emmanuel
The gifts that they gave Emmanuel

Orah: Now it looks like everyone is here. What's next?

1. Is there anything else in the treasure box?

2. I see light.

Orah: Ahhh, the light is the real Christmas treasure. It is the first thing we brought out and *it* lit the way for our story. It reminds us that God's love continues to burn in our lives all the time.

2. Being afraid can't put it out.

4. Not having a fancy job or a lot of money can put it out.

6. A mean old king can't put it out.

Orah: Not even being a little shy can put it out. As long as we have this story to tell, then the yuletide treasure of Jesus' love will shine for everyone to see.

2. It's so beautiful.

3. It makes me feel good.

1. I want to share it with everyone.

All: Share it???

1. Yeah. I want to pick up the light and give some to everyone so that they can take Jesus' light home with them. Can we do that Orah?

Orah: Of course we can. The Christmas Treasure is supposed to be shared. But we'll need everybody's help. Will you all take some of the light and bring it out to the people in the seats?

All: Yes!

Orah: While the children are bringing you the yuletide light, it's your turn to sing. Let's sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go
by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee
to-night.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on
earth.

2. For Christ is born of Mary And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the Angels keep Their watch of
wondering love.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His
Heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ
enters in.

Orah: Let's pray:

Dear God, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with you, and the Word was you. You came into our world as baby Jesus and in him, we found new life, and in that life, we saw that it was your light that was shining for everyone to see. You shined in the darkness and nothing could put it out. We thank you for shining on us today. We thank you for shining on people who are mad or sad; we thank you for shining on people who are sick or going through hard times; we thank you for being with us when we follow your stars and when we discover people or places that bring us great joy! You have been with us from the beginning of time and we are glad to have your light shining in our lives. Hear us today as we lift up that light for everyone to see and pray the words that you taught us to pray together, saying, Our Father who art I heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen