

THE LIVING CRÈCHE

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Story in Scripture, Legend, and Song

OVERTURE

(♩ = ca. 88)

* *ACCOMP.* *p*

5 *mp*

10

15 *mf*

20 *mp* *rit.*

* **STILLE NACHT (Silent Night! Holy Night!)**. Melody by Franz Gruber (1787-1863).

CEREMONY: The Hanging of the Greens

(As the Storyteller begins, a family or small group of people enters. They hang a spray of evergreen and holly in a prominent place. Next, they light each of the four Advent candles, leaving the Christ Candle unlit. Then they position themselves downstage, where they remain for the duration of the pageant.)

The Legend of the Evergreens

STORYTELLER: The Christ Child comes! Hail the triumph of Light over Darkness!
In preparation for His coming, we hang these evergreen boughs, symbols since ancient times of victory over winter's darkness. We offer these holly branches, with their thorny leaves and blood-red berries, as symbols of Christ's crown of thorns, solemn reminders of the sacrifice of the Child yet born. *(Music starts)*

3. THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

(♩ = ca. 100-104)

ACCOMP. *p* (Speaking stops)

5 UNISON VOICES *mf* ⑧

The hol-ly and the i - vy, when

10

they are both full grown, of — all the trees that are in the wood, the —

* THE HOLLY AND THE IVY. Traditional English carol and words.

152

West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us

157

rit. (Wise men move to positions in crèche.)

to thy per - fect light.

rit. (Music stops)

VII. SPREAD THE NEWS: JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!

THE WORD OF THE LORD: Matthew 2: 12 and Luke 2: 20 — Spreading the News

NARRATOR: After they had worshipped the Christ Child,
the wise men returned to their countries,
and the shepherds returned to their fields,
glorifying and praising God for all
the things that they had seen and heard. (*Music starts*)

12. HE IS BORN, GLORIA!

(♩ = ca. 132)
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STORYTELLER: So, like the wise men and

ACCOMP. *p* (*Speaking stops*) (*Speaking starts*)

* IL EST NÉ (He Is Born). Traditional French carol and words.