

# *Journey to Bethlehem*

## *A Christmas Program in 5 Suites*

by Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman  
Orchestrations by Alan Billingsley

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*Cover Illustration by Kurt Nagahori*

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*to celebrate the birth of Christina Celeste Croal*

# **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

## **A Christmas Program in 5 Suites**

**Traditional Songs and Customs, New Lyrics and Narration  
for Unison or 2-Part Voices**

*Written and Arranged by*

**ANNA LAURA PAGE and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN**

*Recording Orchestrated and Produced by*

**ALAN BILLINGSLEY**

### ***I. Hanging the Greens***

Our journey to Bethlehem begins with preparation and longing for the coming Savior. Hanging the evergreen branches and displaying boughs of holly, we remember God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 22:18): "From your seed will all nations of the earth be blessed, for you have obeyed My voice."

### ***II. Lighting the Candles***

Candles light our pathway, recalling the messianic prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 9: 2): "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in the land of darkness and death's shadow, upon them has light shined."

### ***III. Gathering at the Manger***

A crèche, or manger scene, signals our arrival in Bethlehem, where the King of kings sleeps humbly in a cattle stall (Luke 2: 7): "And she gave birth to her Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

### ***IV. Lighting the Tree***

A star crowns the sparkling Christmas tree, symbolic of the light that announced the Savior's birth to the shepherds and guided the wise men from the east (Luke 2: 9-11): "Then an angel of the Lord appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone all around, and the angel said, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is the Messiah, Christ the Lord!'"

### ***V. Presenting the Gifts***

The wise men arrived bearing precious gifts for God's Son, Who is our greatest Treasure (Matthew 2: 10-11): "When they saw the star shine over the Child, they were filled with great joy. Going into the house, they bowed down and worshipped the Christ Child, giving Him gold, frankincense and myrrh." In presenting our own gifts, we return a measure of our gratitude and proclaim the good news: "Christ is born to save us all."

## FOREWORD

**Journey to Bethlehem** may be presented in its entirety as a 20-minute Christmas program, or as 5 individual suites throughout the season. It is ideal for incorporation into worship, as a special program of lessons and carols, or for concerts in churches or Christian schools. Intended for performance by unison (opt. 2-part) choirs of all ages, it may be performed by a single choir or by different groups of singers representing various classes or age groups.

Page 2 provides an instructive and inspiring “roadmap for our journey.” It may be reprinted for use as a program guide or for incorporation into the performances as additional narrative, spoken at the beginning of each suite. **Reproducible Singers’ Pages** appear on pages 30-40 and may serve to encourage audience or congregational participation. An optional fully-orchestrated accompaniment/performance compact disc (CD) recording is available separately.

The composers highly recommend incorporating traditional customs into performances of **Journey to Bethlehem**: the hanging of the greens, the lighting of Advent or Christmas candles and a Christmas tree, the displaying of a manger scene and the gathering of gifts for charitable distribution. Although costuming and staging are not required, they may easily be added.

**Anna Laura Page** is Handbell Editor for Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., and a widely celebrated composer, children’s choir conductor and handbell clinician. **Jean Anne Shafferman** is Director of Church Choral Publications for Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., and has presented choral clinics throughout the United States and Canada. Both are graduates of the University of Kentucky. **Journey to Bethlehem** was recorded in Manhattan Beach, California, Alan Billingsley, Instrumental Arranger, Conductor and Producer.

\* \* \* \* \*

## I. HANGING THE GREENS

### NARRATION #1

- NARRATOR:** Leaves of green, evergreen, always seem to say  
Christ will come, God’s true Son, born on Christmas day.
- SPEAKER #1:** The Child so fair, without a care, crowned in radiant glory,
- SPEAKER #2:** The Promise of Eternal Life in ancient prophet’s story,
- SPEAKER #3:** One day will wear a crown of thorns and die for our salvation,
- SPEAKER #4:** Then live again and rule with God in triumph o’er all nations.
- NARRATOR:** So, join us as we hang these greens.  
They always seem to say:
- ALL:** Christ will come, God’s true Son, born on Christmas day.

# 1. EVERGREEN CAROL

(The Holly and the Ivy/O Come, All Ye Faithful)

Arranged by ANNA LAURA PAGE  
and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

Joyfully (♩ = ca. 96-100)

ACCOMP. *mf*

UNISON VOICES \*THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

4 *mf* ⑤

We hang the boughs of hol - ly and branch-es ev - er -

8

green, and — sing our thanks to God a - bove for the ad - vent of our  
(com - ing)

12 PART I (or unis.) ⑬ PART II (or unis.)

King. O the com - ing of God's Son, — and the hang - ing of the

\* Traditional English carol; words adapted by JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN.

16 UNISON

greens, the pray-ing of His faith-ful peo - ple, sweet sing-ing in the

1st time: PART I (or unis.)  
2nd time: PART II (or unis.)

20

choir. 1. The

24

hol - ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood, and  
hol - ly bears a prick - le as sharp as an - y thorn, and

28

1. (mf)  
Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ to do poor sin - ners good. 2. The  
Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ on Christ-mas Day in the

1.

32 2.

morn.

2.

**\*O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

36 UNISON *f* (38)

O come, Ho - ly Sav - ior,

*cresc.* *f*

40

Prom - ise of Sal - va - tion, O come, Ye, O come — Ye to

44

Beth - le - hem. Come! We a - wait You,

50

*f* DESCANT (opt.)

48

\*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve -  
 (O come, let us a - dore Him, O  
 MELODY

Lord of ev - 'ry na - tion. \*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve -  
 (O come, let us a - dore Him, O

52

ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus  
 come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus  
 come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

56

*rit.*

Do - mi - num!  
 Christ the Lord!)

Do - mi - num!  
 Christ the Lord!)

*rit.*

\* Latin pronunciation: veh-NEE-teh ah-doh-REH-moos DOH-mee-noom.

## II. LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### NARRATION #2

**NARRATOR:** Stumbling in darkness, alone in the night,  
 the people of God said, "Send down Your light!"  
 The stars in the heavens, the moon in the sky,  
 did little to help them. They cried, "God on high,  
 send us a symbol, send us a sign,  
 a beacon, a spotlight. Let Your light shine!"

*(PAUSE — then in a loud whisper)*  
 But all was DARKNESS!

*(PAUSE — then Speaker #1 begins quietly over the  
 keyboard introduction, followed in turn by the other Speakers.)*

## 2. CANDLELIGHT CAROL (Patapan/Joy to the World)

Arranged by ANNA LAURA PAGE  
 and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

In two (♩ = ca. 66)

VOICES

SPEAKER #1  
*p*

Then one ti-ny can-dle flick-ered in the night with the light of hope, what a

ACCOMP.

*p*

5

SPEAKERS #1, 2  
*mp*

heav-en-ly sight! Then two ti-ny can-dles flick-ered in the night with the light of peace, what a

*mp*

10

SPEAKERS #1, 2, 3

*mf*

9

heav-en - ly sight! Then three ti - ny can - dles flick-ered in the night with the light of love, what a

Piano accompaniment for measures 9-12. The right hand has a whole rest in measure 9 and then plays a series of quarter notes in measures 10-12. The left hand plays a steady accompaniment of quarter notes in pairs.

SPEAKERS #1, 2, 3, 4

*f*

13

heav-en - ly sight! Then four ti - ny can - dles flick-ered in the night with the light of joy, what a

Piano accompaniment for measures 13-16. The right hand has a whole rest in measure 13 and then plays quarter notes in measures 14-16. The left hand continues with the quarter-note accompaniment.

17

heav-en - ly sight!

Piano accompaniment for measures 17-20. The right hand has a whole rest in measure 17 and then plays a melodic line with quarter notes and a sharp sign in measure 19. The left hand continues with the quarter-note accompaniment.

21 DESCANT (3rd time only — opt.)

23 *mf*

Musical staff for Descant, starting at measure 23. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

Love, love, love,

\*PATAPAN *mf*

MELODY (sing 3 times)

Musical staff for the main melody, starting at measure 23. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

1. Ad - vent can - dle, burn - ing bright through the night, shine your

DRUM (2nd & 3rd times)

Drum staff with rhythmic notation consisting of quarter notes marked with an 'x' and quarter rests. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

21

23

Piano accompaniment staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand has a melodic line with a *dim.* marking. The left hand has a bass line with chords. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

25

Musical staff for Descant, starting at measure 25. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

love, love, love, love, love, love,

Musical staff for the main melody, starting at measure 25. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

light of 1. hope, tell - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where: soon the Sav - ior  
2. peace,  
3. love,

Drum staff with rhythmic notation consisting of quarter notes marked with an 'x' and quarter rests.

25

Piano accompaniment staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand has a melodic line with chords. The left hand has a bass line with chords.

\* Traditional French carol; new words by JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN.

29

love, love, love, send down Your love, O

comes, soon He will be here; peo-ple, gath-er and pre-pare in the night with the

29

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The second staff is another vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. A large red watermark is overlaid across the page.

33

1., 2. | 3. (end descant)

send Your love.

light of 1. hope. 2., 3. Ad-vent love.

2. peace.

1., 2. | 3. (end drum)

33

1., 2. | 3.

This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics and musical notation. The second staff is another vocal line in treble clef with lyrics and musical notation. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. A large red watermark is overlaid across the page.

37 UNISON *f*  
Ad - vent

*mp cresc. poco a poco* *f*

41  
can - dle, burn - ing bright through the night, shine your light of joy, tell - ing

45  
peo - ple ev - 'ry - where: soon the Sav - ior comes, soon He will be here; peo - ple,

49 *rit.* [52] (♩ = ca. 84-88)  
gath - er and pre - pare in the night with the light of joy.  
(♩ = ca. 84-88)

*rit.*

**\*JOY TO THE WORLD**  
(+opt. congregation/audience)

53

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let

56

earth re-ceive her King! Let ev 'ry heart pre-

59

pare Him room, and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture sing, and

62

heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing!

*rit.*

\* Music by GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759), adapted by LOWELL MASON (1792-1872); words paraphrased from Psalm 98 by ISAAC WATTS (1674-1748).

### III. GATHERING AT THE MANGER

#### NARRATION #3

*(adapted from the traditional carol, **The Friendly Beasts**)*

- NARRATOR:** A decree went out across the land,  
that all should journey to Bethlehem.  
And there, in a manger humble and crude,  
a Baby was born — the Savior — it's true!
- A King — asleep on a bed of hay,  
A Prince — born on Christmas Day,  
A Friend — to creatures great and small,  
beside Him there in the cattle stall.
- SPEAKER #1:** Rest sweetly, dear donkey, shaggy and brown.  
You carried the Savior to Bethlehem town.
- SPEAKER #2:** Move gently, sweet cow, all white and red.  
You gave Him your manger for His bed.
- SPEAKER #3:** Speak softly, kind sheep with curly horn.  
You gave Him your wool for His blanket warm.
- SPEAKER #4:** Coo sweetly, white dove in rafters high.  
You sang Him to sleep with your lullaby.
- NARRATOR:** The friendly beasts, by some good spell,  
in a stable dark were glad to tell  
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel  
when God came from heav'n on earth to dwell.

### 3. MANGER CAROL

(Mary Had a Baby/The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy)

Arranged by ANNA LAURA PAGE  
and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

Freely (♩ = ca. 88-92)

ACCOMP. *mp*

⑤ *mp* PART I (mp) PART II I II

Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, Lord! Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, my Lord!

9 I II *mf* UNISON

Ma - ry had a ba - by, yes, Lord! A lit - tle ti - ny ba - by born in

12 *rit.* ⑬ **Faster** (♩ = ca. 112-120)

Beth - le - hem.

**Faster** (♩ = ca. 112-120)

*rit.*

\* Traditional spiritual. Mm. 5-13 may be sung by unison voices.



27

1.

He come - from the glo - ri - ous King - dom.

30

2.

2. The glo - ri - ous King - dom.

33

*f*

Glo

36

(clap)

ri - a! He come - from the glo - ri - ous King - dom!

## IV. LIGHTING THE TREE

### NARRATION #4

**NARRATOR:** Star light, star bright, high above the tree tonight,  
tell us how you came to be; help us solve the mystery.

**SPEAKER #1:** I shine throughout the long, cold night  
to guide the travellers by my light.  
The inn is full, no room to spare.  
Do you know the holy pair?

**SPEAKER #2:** I shine throughout the long, cold night  
to guide the travellers by my light.  
Their flocks are safe, the lambs and ewes.  
Do you know the chosen few?

**SPEAKER #3:** I shine throughout the long, cold night  
to guide the travellers by my light.  
Their camels journey from the east.  
Do you know the sages three?

**NARRATOR:** Star light led the holy pair,  
Mary and Joseph, to stable bare.  
Star light led the shepherds, too,  
led them to Jesus, the Babe so new.

Star light led the wise men three.  
To Bethlehem they came to see  
the Promise of prophets long ago.  
Why did they come? How did they know?

Star light, star bright, high above the tree tonight,  
shine for all and spread the news:

**ALL:** Christ, the Babe, is born for you!

# 4. STAR CAROL

(Behold That Star/O Little Town of Bethlehem/  
Silent Night! Holy Night!/Go, Tell It on the Mountain)

Arranged by ANNA LAURA PAGE  
and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

Gently (♩ = ca. 100-104)

ACCOMP. *mp*

4 *mp* PART II (or unis.) **7** \*BEHOLD THAT STAR  
Be - hold that

8 *mp* PART I (or unis.) *mf* UNISON  
star! Be - hold that star up yon - der! Be - hold that

12 *rit.* *a tempo*  
star! It is the star of Beth - le - hem.

\* Traditional spiritual.

16

(21)

**\*O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

*mf* (+ opt. congregation/audience to m. 66)

20

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee

24

lie! A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent - stars go

28

(29)

by. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing

\* Music by LEWIS H. REDNER (1831-1908); words by PHILLIPS BROOKS (1835-1893).

32 *rit.* (♩ = ♩)

light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to -

36 *a tempo*

**\*SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!**  
DESCANT (opt.) *mp*

Si - lent

night. *mp* MELODY Si - lent night!

*a tempo* *mp*

40 *mf* (43) *mf*

night! Ho - ly night! Star, come lend thy light; with the

Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the an - gels

*mf* *mf*

\* Music by FRANZ GRUBER (1787-1863); words by JOSEPH MOHR (1792-1848).

44

an - gels sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;  
let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

47 *f* *mf rit.* (end descant)

Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav ior is born!  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

**\*GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

51 *f* *Faster* (♩ = ca. 108-112)

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

*Faster* (♩ = ca. 108-112)

\* Traditional spiritual.

54

ev - 'ry - where; go, tell it on the moun - tain that

57

Je - sus Christ — is born! While shep - herds kept their

60

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be - hold, through - out the

64

heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.

*rit.* (end congregation/audience)

*rit. e dim.*

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 100-104)

CHOIR ONLY

68 *mf*

Be - hold that star! — Be - hold that star up yon - der!

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 100-104)

*mf*

72

Be - hold that star! — It is the star of Beth - le -

*rit.*

76 *a tempo*

*rit. poco a poco*

hem.

*a tempo* *dim. e rit. poco a poco* *p*

## V. PRESENTING THE GIFTS

### NARRATION #5

*(adapted from Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894)*

**NARRATOR:** Christ came down at Christmas,  
joy from heaven, love divine.  
Christ was born at Christmas;  
stars and angels gave the sign.

Wise men journeyed from afar,  
guided by a shining star,  
bearing gifts of myrrh and gold,  
precious, wondrous to behold.

**SPEAKER #1:** What can I give Him, poor as I am?

**SPEAKER #2:** If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

**SPEAKER #3:** If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

**SPEAKER #4:** I am a child of God.  
I give to Him my heart.

**ALL:** Christ was born at Christmas,  
gift from God, love divine.  
Love will be our token,  
love our gift — yours and mine.

# 5. LOVE CAROL

(On This Day Earth Shall Ring/Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

Arranged by ANNA LAURA PAGE  
and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

Joyfully (♩ = ca. 144)

ACCOMP. *f*

The piano accompaniment for the introduction is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line is primarily composed of quarter notes.

## \*ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING

⑤ *f* UNISON VOICES

The first system of the vocal entry includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a repeat sign and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "1. On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing" and "2. God's bright star o'er His head, wise men three to Him led;". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

9

The second system continues the vocal entry. The lyrics are: "to the Lord Christ our King, born on earth to save us;" and "kneel they low by His bed, lay their gifts be-fore Him,". The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

13

⑮ PART I (or unis.)

The third system concludes the vocal entry. The lyrics are: "Him the Fa-ther gave us. He brings joy, joy, joy;" and "praise Him and a-dore Him. Bring Him joy, joy, joy;". The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

\* Words and Music from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; translated by JANE M. JOSEPH (ca. 1894-1929);  
adapted by JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN.

17 PART II (or unis.)

I II

He brings love, love, love; He brings joy, He brings love,  
bring Him love, love, love; bring Him joy, bring Him love,

21 UNISON

1. 2.

love that knows no end - ing! end - ing!  
love that knows no

1. 2.

25

*molto rit.*

*molto rit.*

**\*HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Majestically (♩ = ca. 112)

29 *f* (+ opt. congregation/audience)

Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! - Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Majestically (♩ = ca. 112)

33

Light and life to all He brings, - ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

DESCANT (opt.)

37 *f*

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a!

MELODY

Mild He lays His glo - ry by, - - - - - born that we no more may die, - - - - -

41

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

born to raise us from the earth, born to - - - - - give us sec - ond birth.

(45)

Hark! The an - gels sing, "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a,

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a,

49

*rit.* *ff a tempo* *rit.*

glo - ry - to the new - born - King!"

*ff*

glo - ry - to the new - born King!"

*rit.* *ff a tempo* *rit.*

*red.* *v* *|||* *p*

### REPRODUCIBLE SINGERS' PAGES

The purchase of this book carries with it the right to reprint the Singers' Pages on pages 30-40 as necessary for the rehearsal and performance of this work.