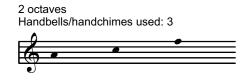
## **OPTIONAL SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION**

(from Luke 2:8-18; 20)

- CHILD 1: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
- CHILD 2: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,
- CHILD 3: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
- CHILD 1: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- ALL: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom God's favor rests."
- CHILD 1: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
- ALL: "Let's go to Bethlehem . . .
- CHILD 2: and see this thing that has happened,
- CHILD 3: which the Lord has told us about."
- CHILD 1: So they hurried off and found Mary
- CHILD 2: and Joseph,
- CHILD 3: and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
- CHILD 1: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
- CHILD 2: and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
- CHILD 3: The shepherds returned,
- ALL: glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

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