



## Scene 1: The Gathering — Advent

*The pageant begins in darkness. The Choir lines up for a processional entrance, or is seated in darkness in center-stage position. Some hold unlit battery-operated candles. Dress your set to reflect images of the pageant. The Christmas tree is dark. The crèche is empty. As the pageant continues, these elements will be completed so that by the end of your production, the entire Christmas story will be visually laid out before the audience. Dress the Three Kings for their entrance in the next scene.*

### Narration and Spoken Script

#### 1. Recite *Christmas on Main Street*.

Tonight, in a town not far from where you live, the people pour into the snow-silent streets. They bring their music, their memories, and their hopes for the coming year. Twelve times they stop, twelve times they listen, and twelve times they move on. So begins another Advent, as Christmas rolls down the centuries towards the town manger. Along the way, children sing and tell the ancient stories...

#### 2. Sing *O Come, Little Children*.

#### 3. Sing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

#### 4. Recite *Huron Carol* over humming chorus.

*Child 1:* Across the seas, people gather quietly. It is winter, and the cold longhouse is covered in snow. Even the birds are silent. They flew south, riding the first autumn winds. The hills are dark, but the skies are filled with stars and northern lights. And then...angel wings appear.

### Director's Notes



*The Narrator speaks from a podium. If spotlights or lectern lights are not available, use a battery-operated candle or make a footlight (see Activities below).*

→ *This monolog can be spoken with no accompaniment, over tolling bell (i.e., a glockenspiel), or over Track 1 of the accompaniment CD.*



*Lights up! The Choir enters from an aisle or explodes into song from its stage position. Sing this joyous German carol like a medieval troupe. Clap on the first beat of each bar.*

→ *Sing this unaccompanied or with piano/guitar accompaniment. Use drums, recorders, and bells to create a march-like feeling. The accompaniment CD gives a 12-beat introduction and a 16-beat coda/ending. Note that the accompaniment CD is performed in the key of E.*



*Lights down for this haunting 13th-century plainsong. Although this piece is best sung by lower voices from the back of the church/auditorium, trebles can sing it in unaccompanied unison.*

*During the carol, two members of the Acting Chorus solemnly light a candle on each side of the stage. To increase the effect, candle-holding Choristers turn on their lights, too. These will remain lit for the following Huron Carol.*

*The accompaniment CD gives a 4-note introduction.*



*Read this poem while the Choir hums two verses of the Huron Carol or speak the words over the haunting arrangement included on the accompaniment CD. Notice how this spoken version vividly brings alive the image of the longhouse gathered around the wooden cradle.*