

Welcome to Bethlehem!

Welcome and Instructions:

Opening Prayer :

By order of Ceasar Augustus, all the world shall be taxed and a counted. Bethlehem's tax collectors have determined you qualify for a refund! Please use your coins to buy food and other items in the market. We regret that all the inns in the area are full, but please make yourselves comfortable in the courtyard while waiting for prophecies to be fulfilled.

The Christmas Story

Participants:

Joseph – t
Mary –
Baby Jesus –
Simeon –
Anna –
Narrators –

Musicians:

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–

Christmas Carols:

O, Come All Ye Faithful
Away in a Manger
The First Noel – Primary chorus
Come, Thou Long Expected – , soloist
We Three Kings of Orient Are
Silent Night – , guitarist

Closing Remarks:

Closing Prayer:

Please leave the building reverently
so you can ponder the events of this Holy Night.

Seder Plate Information

On the night Jesus was born the Passover Feast was being celebrated at Bethlehem, and it was being celebrated at the beginning of his mortal ministry and also at his death. Many of the items at our meal tonight were selected because they are part of a traditional passover meal, or seder plate. The items on the plate hold symbolic significance during the annual re-telling of the story of the Jewish exodus from Egypt.

The six traditional items placed clockwise on the Seder Plate are:

- Chazeret and Maror — Bitter herbs, symbolizing the bitterness and harshness of the slavery in Egypt (celery/horseradish).
- Charoset— A sweet, brown, pebbly mixture, representing the mortar used by the Jewish slaves to build the storehouses of Egypt. (made with apples)
- Karpas — A vegetable other than bitter herbs, which is dipped into salt water at the beginning of the Seder, symbolizing tears shed during captivity (parsley / celery sticks)
- Zeroa — A roasted lamb or goat shankbone, chicken wing, or chicken neck; symbolizes the Lamb sacrificed during rites at the Temple at Jerusalem. (Chicken)
- Baytzah — A hard-boiled egg represents the holiday offering made at the Temple at Jerusalem. Eggs are traditionally the first food served to mourners at a Jewish funeral, and the egg evokes mourning over the destruction of the Temple and the inability to make sacrifices there.

Three pieces of unleavened bread, or matzah, are placed at the side of the plate and used during the telling of the story.

Sources:

John P. Pratt, "Passover—Was It Symbolic of His Coming?," *Ensign*, Jan 1994, p 38
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover_Seder_Plate
http://judaism.about.com/library/3_howto/ht_sederplate.htm