

Drama for the presentation at the temple Prophecies of Simeon & Anna regarding Jesus

Gospel of Luke 2: 22-39

Cast: Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, Simeon and Anna, the prophetess
King James Version of the Bible

Scenery: No scenery needed

The action is always best on a raised platform, such as the chancel area.

Costumes: Simple Bible costumes would be appropriate.

Staging: Mary/Joseph/Jesus enter from the Left (stage R) while Simeon enters from the Right (stage L) to meet in the center. Anna enters from the right or down the center aisle. Anna and Simeon exit to the Left while Mary/Joseph/Jesus exit down the center aisle.

Reading: 1) The italicized script is for reference only – not to be read.

2) The narrators are included so they can use microphones, so the text can be heard. Narrators should be out of sight or at the reader's podium.

3) Simeon should have a headset microphone

More people are better: Although some churches may prefer to use less people than scripted, it is useful to use as many people as possible in each production, even if their parts are small for the sake of building a worship drama team. Yes, it is more work, but remember that organizing is part of connecting with each other.

Note on unusual capitalizations in the text: The King James Version has an abundance of unusually placed capitalizations. They are included here.

1. Purification at the Temple (Luke 2: 22-24)

Male Narrator 1:

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord. (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.

2. Simeon Called to the Temple by Holy Spirit to See the Promised Christ Child (Luke 2:25-28)

Male Narrator 2:

And , behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

3. Simeon Declaring That He May Now Depart in Peace now that he has seen the Christ Child, the consolation of Israel (Matthew 2:20-35)

Simeon:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Male Narrator 2:

And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother,

Simeon:

Behold this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

4. Anna, the Prophetess, Praises God for the Christ Child (Luke 2:36-38)

Female Narrator:

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

5. Mary, Joseph and Jesus leave to return to Nazareth (Luke 2:39)

Male Narrator 1:

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Additional Worship Elements:

1. A bulletin card with Simeon's declaration (which is often called the Nunc Dimittis) for personal prayer and reflection during the week ahead:

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” KJV (or a translation from a newer version)

Prayer: Lord, let me be a light this week that shines on the light of Jesus Christ to the world around me. Amen.

2. Revealing the Prophetess Anna as an inspiration for all women to see their role in Christ's holy kingdom.

3. Hymns and liturgy in the United Methodist Hymnal:

p. 225 *Canticle of Simeon*

p. 226 *My Master, See, the Time Has Come* –

A hymn based on this scripture