

Bethlehem Village
December 16, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.

Part I - The Village

As you stroll through the village watch for shepherds and townspeople. Notice strangers entering town to be counted in the census and looking for rooms for the night.

Tax Collector's Booth: Be counted for the census and pay tax. Our offering project supports MCC's beekeeping projects.

Cloth Merchant: Visit the cloth merchant; borrow a garment to wear.

Potter's Shop: Visit with the village potter. Make a small vase or oil lamp.

Synagogue School: Attend class taught by the village rabbi.

Olive Press and Mill: Press olives with a mortar and pestle. Grind grain using a stone.

Instrument Maker: Make and play a timbrel

Quilt Maker: Tie a comfort.

Village Bakery: Learn about bread making in Bible times. Prepare a small loaf to bake.

Village Center: Play a game. Spin a dreidel. Give alms to a beggar.

Carpenter Shop: Learn about early tools. Make a simple toy.

Food Market: Enjoy lentil soup and pita bread.

Star Gazing: (weather permitting) Observe the moon and stars.

Part II -The Manger

Gather near the manger to sing carols with us and hear the Christmas story as told by Luke and Matthew.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1)

Luke 2: 1-7

Carols: Away in a Manger (v. 1)
Silent Night (v.1)

Luke 2:8-14

Carol: Angels we have heard on high (v.1)

Luke 2:15-20

Carol: What child is this (v.1)

Matthew 2:1-12

Carol: O come, all ye faithful (v. 1)

John 1:14

Carol: Joy to the World (v.1)

Closing Prayer Stephen Penner

Part III

Gather around tables to share Christmas treats and fellowship.

Cast of Characters:

Chief Tax Collector: Sharon Reimer

Rabbi: Caley Ortman

Bakers: Cathy Ratmeyer, Laura Zuniga, Beth Guerrero

Olive Press and Mill: Paul and Ruth Buxman

Potter: Suzi Ewy

Lentil soup: Juan Montes, Chewy and Ligia Duran

Cloth Merchant: Edith Montano

Carpenter: Alan Ewy

Timbrels: Christy Zimmerman and Melinda Hasagawa

Comforter: Barbara Boldt, pieced by Cathy Ratmeyer, Pauline Aguilar

Beggar: Stephen Penner

Shepherds, Angels and Magi: Children of First Mennonite Church/Primera Iglesia Menonita

Mary and Joseph: Estevan and Marybelle Ambriz

Baby Jesus: Ezekiel Ambriz

Pianist: David Boldt

Narrators: Aneesa Gomez, Kyara Alvarado

Coordinator: Barbara Ewy

Special thanks to everyone who helped with setting up the village and providing pop-ups and props. Special thanks also to PIM for preparing toot (treat) bags and Dorothy and David Boldt for the oranges.

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First Mennonite Church
1208 L Street
Reedley, California*