THE CHRISTMAS STAR
By Lola Lemke

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PREPARATION: Have Chapter Room darkened except for emblematic star in the East. All officers at their stations.

CHARACTERS: Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Star Points, Conductor, Associate Conductor, Chaplain, choir, musician. Soloist-optional.

MUSIC: "Joy To the World"; "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night"; "We Three Kings of Orient Are"; "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"; "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"; "Silent Night, Holy Night".

PROGRAM

Associate Matron: Your star and my star and how it shines today,
O'er your land and my land, and half the world away!
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight
God in Heaven hung above, that Holy Christmas night;
The One star, the Great star, the Star for me and you,
Glorified all else beside, fairest in the blue.

At the conclusion of poem, a choir starts singing in the preparation room, "Joy To the World". They enter Chapter Room singing, as they make their way to places near the piano. Lights are turned on. When the song is finished the Worthy Patron reads Luke 2:8-18. Then sings, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night".

The Associate Patron reads Matt. 2:1,2 and Matt. 2:7-11 inclusive. Then sings, "We Three Kings of Orient Are".

Worthy Matron: Sister Associate Matron,
What makes the Christmas star so bright?
Where does it get its silver light?

Associate Matron: All kinds of deeds throughout the year
New help to make its beams more clear,
And all our pleasant words and smiles
Travel for miles and miles and miles.
Until they reach this lovely star
That in the East shines forth afar,
For kindness is the silver light
That makes the Christmas Star so bright.

Worthy Matron: Sister Star Points, (They rise together), How did the beautiful custom of Christmas giving originate and what significance has it?

Adah: Long, long ago the wise men
Followed the shining star
With gold and fragrant spices,
They traveled from afar.

Ruth: They came with eager gladness,
Their costly gifts to bring,
In grateful love and worship
To Christ, the newborn King.
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Esther:
We celebrate His birthday
Again and yet again,
With gifts in glad remembrance,
Og God's great gift to men.

Martha:
The loving words of Jesus
O'er fair Jedia's hills,
Adown the century ringing
Comes echoing to us still.

Electa:
Each little gift ye proffer,
My watchful eye shall see,
If done for these my brethren,
Ye've done it unto me.

The Star Points are seated, choir—sings, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".

Worthy Matron:  Sisters Conductress, Associate Conductress and Chaplain,
There's a song and a star and a story
That brightens the Christmas Day,
Will you tell us their glorious message,
As our tribute of love we pay?

Conductress:  The song was sung by the angels,
Afar on the Eastern plain,
A chorus of heavenly voices,
Re-echo the glad refrain:
"Glory to God in the highest
Peace and good will to men"
And every year at Christmas
We joyfully sing it again.

Choir sings first verse of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear".

Assoc. Conductress:  The star that shone so brightly,
Still sheds its glorious ray,
It led the searching wise men,
To the place where Jesus lay.
It shines in our hearts at Christmas,
It gladdens the whole wide earth,
For it tells the old, old story,
Of Jesus, the Savior's birth.

Choir sings second verse of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear".

Chaplain:  'Tis a wonderful, beautiful story,
Of the babe in the manger bed,
Of shepherds on the hill side,
Who heard what the angels said,
How they quickly left their flocks
Their tribute of love to bring,
And worship 'in holy rapture
At the feet of the Infant King.

Choir—sings the last verse of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". The lights of the Chapter Room are lowered with only the Star left shining.
Worthy Matron:

Your star and my star, and oh, how much it sways
Your heart and my heart, all through the passing days;
The true star, the guiding star, its rays forever gleam.
Since Christ was born in Bethlehem, the grand old Magi's dream,
Since Christ was born in a manger low, it gleams for you and I,
A glorified guidon of our lives, shining from on high.

The choir marches slowly out of the room in the same manner as they entered, singing
"Silent Night, Holy Night".

The music in this program may be varied. Solos: verses of songs may be sung as solos
and the chapter members may be asked to join in others.