

**“A Lot of What We Need to Know in Life,  
We Learn in the Christmas Pageant”**

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Pageant Sunday

We grown-ups can make life—and faith—so complicated. It’s good to be reminded that many of life’s most important lessons can be learned in the Christmas pageant. This morning, the bulletin says I’ll offer a “meditation,” which is far more serious than I intend...let’s call this a “musing.”

Lessons from the Christmas Pageant:

- Be where you’re supposed to be when you’re supposed to be there. When the wise men wander and the shepherds don’t show up, the action falters.
- Life is not fair. You were an angel last year—this year, you’re a donkey. Not everyone gets to be Mary.
- Don’t judge people by the clothes they wear. Even if the shepherds have towels on their heads, they were the first humans the angels told about Jesus.
- Make reservations ahead of time. The night of Jesus’ birth could have been a lot more comfortable.
- Trust God to come up with plan B. The manger worked just fine.
- Life is messy. Even the angels’ haloes aren’t quite on straight. God doesn’t expect perfection. In fact, it’s our mistakes that can make for holy laughter.
- Be bold. Proclaim God’s goodness so that all can hear.
- Children grow up quickly. Appreciate them. It seems like she was just the littlest angel, and now she’s a narrator. The shortest shepherd grew into the tallest wise man. Appreciate our kids for who they are today. Tomorrow comes soon.
- Give thanks. We are blessed indeed to be here, today, together, to celebrate this most ordinary and extraordinary of events—our Christmas pageant. Thank you, God. Amen.