

Nativity Script

Pax Christi

- Announcer Good evening and welcome to Pax Christi's program of the birth of Jesus. Please join us downstairs in the church hall after the program for cookies and fellowship. As we wait for Christmas, it is good for all of us to remember for whom we are waiting and why His coming to earth is so important to all people for all times.
- Narrator 1 Living in the little town of Nazareth was a young woman named Mary. *(Mary enters down center aisle and kneels on the first step)* One day God asked something very special of her, so special He sent the Angel Gabriel to her with a message: *(Angel Gabriel enters from the back of the church down the center aisle, comes to the middle of the sanctuary, faces congregation and extends arms outward.)*
- Narrator 2 "Mary you have found favor in the eyes of God. You are to become a mother and have a son. You shall call him Jesus. The child to be born will be the son of God."
- Narrator 1 Mary was a little afraid, but she said yes to doing God's will. She understood that she was to be the mother of the Messiah and that through her God would keep the promise He had made through the prophets. His people would have a savior. *(Gabriel leaves down west aisle)*
- Narrator 2 After a while Mary went home and joined her husband, Joseph. *(Mary leaves down center aisle)* Then Caesar Augustus, the emperor of Rome decided he wanted to know how many people he ruled and where they lived. Everyone had to return to the city of their father and register.
- Narrator 1 This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. Bethlehem was a long way from Nazareth. They would have to walk. Maybe Joseph could get a donkey for Mary to ride, since it was almost time for the baby to be born.

Announcer As Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem, let us think of the longing they had for their child to be born. Do you have that longing in your heart also? Please join us in singing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" *(Mary and Joseph enter by back of the church and walk perimeter to end up at the bottom of the first step by song's end)*

(During verse 2, innkeepers enter by east aisle. Innkeeper 1 - west side, innkeeper 2 - center, innkeeper 3 - east side.)

Narrator 2 Finally they arrived in Bethlehem. They were so tired and needed a place to sleep. Mary knew the baby would be born very soon, maybe even tonight! But the city was very crowded and so they had to search for a place to sleep. *(Mary and Joseph approach 1st innkeeper, west side)*

Narrator 1 "My wife and I are looking for a place to stay. Can you help us?"
(1st innkeeper shakes head back and forth several times)

Narrator 2 "No I am sorry. We have no room here."
(Mary and Joseph approach 2nd innkeeper, center.)

Narrator 1 "My wife is going to have a baby soon. Can you help us?"

Narrator 2 "No, sorry. I have no room for you. You will have to go somewhere else."
(2nd innkeeper waves hands and shakes head, point to 3rd innkeeper. Mary and Joseph approach the 3rd innkeeper. 1st and 2nd innkeepers place manger center stage under the spotlight. They also place a box for Mary to sit on. They stand off to the west side.)

Narrator 1 Finally an innkeeper felt sorry for them. Even though he had no room in the inn, he told them:

Narrator 2 "You can stay in the stable if you want. It isn't much, but at least it has a roof and you will be out of the wind."
(3rd innkeeper shrugs shoulders and leads Mary and Joseph to the manger. Mary sits on the box, Joseph remains standing. Innkeeper 3 joins other innkeepers on the west side. They all exit down west side. Enter through back center doors - quietly - , sit with bearers of straw)

Narrator 1 Mary and Joseph accepted the offer. Joseph did his best to make Mary comfortable. He put clean, dry straw in the manger so the baby would have a warm place to sleep. *(Joseph puts straw into the manger)*

Announcer Please join us in singing "Away in the Manger"

Announcer We can offer Jesus the straw of self-sacrifice. Each time we give up our time or money to help those in need, it is like another piece of straw for Jesus' bed. How are we preparing our homes and hearts to receive the king?

Joseph, all, &
Announcer Fresh and clean the straw and hay
on which the baby Jesus lay.
We make Him feel so warm in there,
When we are generous, kind, and fair.



Narrator 2 Later that night, the baby was born. *(If using a doll, Angel Gabriel walks from back of church and gives "baby" to Mary, if using a real baby, parents give baby to Mary.)* Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger. They named the baby "Jesus" as the angel had said to do.

Narrator 1 The promise God made to his people had been fulfilled. Our savior was born, in Bethlehem, the city of David. The first people to hear about the birth were the shepherds in the fields taking care of their sheep. *(Angel Gabriel enters from back of church, center aisle. Stands at center stage and extends arms.)*

Narrator 2 The angel appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. "Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy. This very day your savior Christ the Lord is born in Bethlehem. You will find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Announcer Please join us in singing, "The First Noel." *(shepherds proceed up to stage. They stand behind Mary and Joseph. Once shepherds are in place, Angel Gabriel walks down center aisle to back of church.)*

Announcer Like the shepherds we offer ourselves to Jesus. Like them, let us obey quickly and cheerfully when called by the word of God.

Shepherds &
Announcer

As shepherds watched the sheep by night,
The sky burst forth with radiant light,
"Your Savior's born," the angel said.
The shepherds knelt before His bed.



Narrator 1 Suddenly, there was with the angles a multitude of heavenly host, praising God saying, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth to those on whom His favor rests.

Announcer Please join us in singing "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*Shepherds sit where they are. Angels proceed during song and stand behind shepherds. Angel Gabriel walks up behind angels, stands to side of angels.*)

Announcer With the angels we offer praise to God. Like them, let us share his good news with all those that we meet.

Announcer &
Angels

Angels, Lord, your glory sing,
and praises be to God and King
This little infant, poor and small,
Is the Lord and God of all.



Narrator 2 Mary and Joseph were surprised to see so many strangers coming to see Jesus. They knew that Jesus was a very special baby but were puzzled about how many others knew this too.

Narrator 1 That night there were many stars in the sky. One star, that was bigger than all the rest shone brightly over the place where Jesus was born.

Announcer Please join us in singing "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (*star bearers come forward carrying stars - split themselves evenly on either side of the stage. During "Said the king to the people ev'rywhere" verse, all come to altar except wise people.*)

Announcer We want to shine like Bethlehem's stars by offering Jesus our gifts of love. The star that lit the sky that night reminds us of the warmth and brilliance of God's love. Help us bring that light to others.

Announcer &
Star Bearers

Our love for all knows no bound,
It's what will make our Christmas sound,
When we shine with love, star bright,
We each become a Christmas light.



Narrator 2 In the meantime, wisemen from the east were also on their way to see the baby. They had seen this new star and realized it was signaling that something wonderful had happened.

Narrator 1 They traveled a long way to find out that this star was the sign they had been waiting for. The sign that a new king had been born - a king very different from any other king ever born.

Announcer Please join us in singing "We Three Kings" (*Shepherds kneel. Wise people to stage, place gift in front of manger, then stand behind angels.*)

Announcer With the wiseman we offer Jesus the gift of putting Him first. Let us remember that the really important things to do are the things He asks of us.

Announcer &
Wise people

Like the kings so wise and just,
In Jesus' words we hope and trust,
Help us to follow His holy light,
By doing what is good and right.



Announcer We are all part of the story - we know Jesus was born for us as well as for the shepherds and wisemen. Each of us has a part in this story of God's love for all His people, just as each of us had a part to tell today. The good news the angels brought to the shepherds is also good news for us.

Announcer Please join us in singing "Silent Night" (*Dim lights, leaving only manger illuminated*)