

Worship the Savior

A Christmas play by: Robin Lewis

Cast:

Gabriel: (Adult Male-any age) Messenger angel from the Lord

Mary: (Young woman 16-20yrs) “Sings” God’s chosen virgin to bare His Son, favored by God.

Joseph: (Young man 18-25 yrs) “Sings” Mary’s betrothed. In the line of David, Carpenter.

Elizabeth: (Older woman/60s-70s) Mary’s much older cousin, wife of the priest Zechariah, pregnant in her old age.

Joseph’s “Kid” Apprentice: (Young male kid 7-10)* Apprentice to Joseph

Town Official/Guard: (Adult Male-any age)* delivers census news

Townswoman 1: (Adult Female-any age)* skeptical of Mary and Joseph, mom to “kid apprentice”.

Townswoman 2: (Adult Female-any age)* skeptical of Mary and Joseph

Townswoman 3: (Adult Female-any age)* skeptical of Mary and Joseph

Town’s kid 1: (Any gender-age 7-11)* excited about Messiah news

Town’s kid 2: (Any gender-age 7-11)* excited about Messiah news

Town’s kid 3: (Any gender-age 7-11)* excited about Messiah news

Innkeeper 1: (Teen/Adult-any gender)*

Innkeeper 2: (Teen/Adult-any gender)*

Bethlehem Townsperson: (Teen/Adult-pref. male)*

Shepherd 1: (Adult Male-Any Age) “Sings”

Shepherd 2: (Adult Male-Any Age) “Sings”

Shepherd 3: (Adult Male-Any Age) “Sings”

Kid Shepherd: (young male kid age 7-11) “Sings” Loves to play the drum for God. Little drummer boy.

3-4 Sheep: (Any gender-kids)* Make animal noises

1 cow: (any gender-kid)* Makes animal noises

1 donkey: (any gender-kid)* Makes animal noises

Simeon: (Adult Male-senior) Righteous and devout man waiting for the savior at the temple.

Anna: (Adult Female-senior) Prophetess at the temple who tells others about the savior.

***Choir Townspeople/Angels:** “Sing”(all townspeople: 7 adult parts and 5 kids who are not in the manger scene), plus any extra who want to be extra towns people and angels)

20 speaking parts/27 characters (more if adults/kids just want to be townspeople and angels with no speaking lines)

Act 1 Scene 1: Town of Nazareth

Scene: *(The scene is the town of Nazareth. We start with one Townsperson setting up for the day, singing about waiting for the coming Messiah. The rest of the town comes in on verse 2 and joins in the song as they also set up for the day. They are going about their daily lives of setting up their tables in the market and calling out for the coming Messiah)*

SONG 1: *(All Townspeople) “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel” Chris Tomlin*

Scene: *(Mary is introduced as she goes from booth to booth picking up bread and apples as a daily routine during the song).*

Act 1 Scene 2: Mary’s house

Scene: *(Scene changes to a house with a table. Mary is at a table kneading dough and making flatbread. In comes Gabriel, the angel of the Lord.)*

Gabriel: Rejoice, highly favored one. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women! *(Luke 1:28)*

Mary: *(Troubled, thinking and unsure about this angel. Softly/afraid)* Who are you? Highly Favored? I don’t understand.

Gabriel: I am Gabriel. An angel sent to you from the Lord. Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will become pregnant and have a son, and you will call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. *(Luke 1:30-33)*

Mary: *(Confused and bewildered. Almost to herself)* Pregnant? A Son? Son of the Highest? *(To the angel)* How can this be since I am not married yet and am still a virgin? *(Luke 1:34)*

Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born, the Holy One, will be called the Son of God. *(Mary looking like she is trying to understand and believe)* I want to also tell you that your cousin Elizabeth in her old age is pregnant with a son and is in her sixth month. She was declared barren. For with God nothing is impossible. *(Luke 1: 35-37)*

Mary: *(Surprised at Elizabeth’s news and slightly more confident and in surrender)* I am the servant of the Lord. Let it happen just as you have said. *(Luke 1:38)*

(Gabriel leaves)

Mary: *(Falls to the ground in prayer to the Lord)* Dear God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth I am your servant. We have been crying out to you for the Messiah for so long. We have believed in your promises and now Lord, you have taken it upon yourself to bring this Messiah through me. I don't know why you have chosen me. Out of Nazareth. A town not known for kings but for those who are despised and rejected. I thank you Lord for allowing me to be your servant. I have so many questions, but I want

to surrender this to you first. I thank you for this baby. I thank you for this Savior. But Lord, you know that I am about to be married to Joseph. I don't know how to tell him that I am carrying a baby before our marriage. This is against our people's ways. Against your law. So, I ask you to please go before me and speak to Joseph. Open his heart to understand. I pray that I would not lose him in this. But no matter what I trust in you.

Scene: *(Lights go down on Mary's house. It is now transformed into a carpenter's shop: Table pushed back with some tools, sleeping cot to the side, and a rocking chair at the center)*

Act 1 Scene 3: Joseph's workshop

Scene: *(Lights come up to reveal Joseph's workshop. Joseph is at work building a rocking chair when Mary comes in the door to see him)*

Joseph: *(excited to see her)* Oh, Hi Mary! I'm so glad you are here. I just finished this rocking chair for the family up the street and I wanted you to see it before I delivered it.

Mary: Oh, Joseph its beautiful. You are very good at what you do. God has truly blessed you with woodworking talent.

Joseph: *(blushing)* Awe thanks. Yah, they are expecting a baby in the next few weeks and came in to special order it. It's been a lot of fun to make. Maybe I can make one for you when we start to have a family.

Mary: *(Nervous)* Yah, when we start to have a family. *(Shifts the conversation)* Joseph, I am not just here to see you. I have something I need to talk to you about. Something happened today.

Joseph: *(listening)* Oh, okay. Yah. What is it?

Mary: Before I tell you, I need you to remember what you think of me. Who you know me to be.

Joseph: Of course I know who you are. A woman of purity and upright character. A women who wants to please the Lord with all she does. You are the most truthful and honest person I know. I know these things because they are what I love about you.

Mary: Okay good. Just keep those in your mind as I tell you what I need to tell you.

Joseph: Okay.

Mary: You know how we are all constantly asking God when he is going to send the Messiah?

Joseph: Yah, I probably called out for him at least three times already today. I had a run in with a few Roman guards this morning. Anyway, story for another time. Go ahead...

Mary: So, today as I was making bread an angel of the Lord came and spoke to me. His name was Gabriel. I was really scared at first, and really unsure, and then he started talking to me.

Joseph: *(shocked)* An Angel? What? Why? What did he say?

Mary: Ok this is the hard part, but I need you to stay with me. *(Joseph nods)* He told me that I was highly favored by God. *(She pauses. Joseph silent listening intently)* He told me that I would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and would have a son *(pause)*. The Messiah *(pause)*. His name is Jesus *(pause)*. So as far as I know right now, I'm pregnant *(pause)*. With the Messiah *(pause)*. He told me he would be called the Son of the Highest. The Son of God. That he would reign over the house of Jacob forever, and that of his kingdom there would be no end. I explained that I was not married and a virgin, but he said that nothing is impossible with God.

Joseph: *(sits down in the rocking chair shocked, exhausted)*

Mary: I know this is a lot to hear. I'm still processing it. But I wanted to tell you, no matter what happens. I always want to be honest with you. So, I needed you to know.

Joseph: *(stares at the floor with his hands on his head)*

Mary: I've come here to say what I needed to say. I understand if you need some time so I'm gonna go. Please come see me when you're ready. *(Mary leaves)*

Joseph: *(falls to his knees and cries out to God)* She's pregnant? Pregnant? With the Messiah? Lord, If this is from you I want to understand. I want to believe her. I've never known Mary to be dishonest with me. But I don't know what to make of this. According to your law I am not to marry her. I am to bring her before the courts and... stone her? Oh, that makes me feel sick to my stomach. This whole thing is making me sick to my stomach. Oh, Lord I don't know what to do. But if this is truly from you, you need to show me. Please show me. Otherwise, I need to not marry her. I'll break it off quietly. I want to honor you Lord. Please guide me in this. I'm exhausted. Hopefully the Lord will show me more clearly tomorrow. *(Joseph gets in bed and goes to sleep)*

***DREAM MUSIC**

Gabriel: Joseph, Son of David.

Joseph: *(sits up and looks at Gabriel)*

Gabriel: Go ahead and take Mary as your wife. What she told you is the truth. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will have a son and you are to name him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. This is to fulfill what the Lord spoke through the prophet, Isaiah, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which means "God with us". (Matt. 1:20-23)

Joseph: *(lays back down)*

***DREAM MUSIC**

Joseph: *(Gets up as if he has woken up. Jumps out of bed excited)* Praise you Lord! Thank you for sending your angel to me. I will take Mary as my wife and I will father your Son. Your Son. *(Sits in the rocking chair taken aback by the thought of raising God's son)*. Lord, give me the wisdom to take care of your Son. *(Excited)* I've gotta go tell Mary! *(Jumps up and runs out the door)*

Act 1 Scene 4: Back at Mary's house

Scene: *(Change back to Mary's house. Table in front, cot in back, rocking chair gone. Mary is kneading dough again and making flatbread)*

Mary: *(Talking to God out loud)* I trust you Lord. I know you are going to guide me. You will provide. I trust you.

Joseph: *(Runs in out of breath. Starts talking really fast, all excited)* Mary, an angel of the Lord came to me in a dream! I prayed and prayed last night. I asked God to send me a sign, to guide me and he sent me an angel of the Lord. I wanted to do the right thing. I wanted to honor God. And he sent me an angel of the Lord. *(Calming down)* A virgin would conceive and bear a son. God has chosen you! *(Pause)* We are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. *(Pause)* Immanuel.

Mary and Joseph: *(together in awe)* God with us.

Mary: This isn't going to be easy.

Joseph: I'm not sure it's supposed to be easy. But, I'm willing if you are.

Mary: *(gladly/softly)* I'm willing.

Joseph: Well first things first, we need to get married.

Mary: When?

Joseph: Right now! *(Grabs her hand and they run out the door)*

Act 2 Scene 1: Elizabeth and Zechariah's home

Scene: *(Picture of Elizabeth and Zechariah on the wall, rocking chair moved back. Pregnant Elizabeth is rocking in the rocking chair)*

Mary: *(Calling as she comes in)* Elizabeth? Elizabeth?

Elizabeth: *(Gets up excited and then looks down at her belly and feels it like she has been kicked, and laughs joyfully. Grabs Mary's hands)* Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? *(Luke 1:42-43)*

Mary: What? You know! I haven't said anything yet!

Elizabeth: When I heard you call for me the baby in my belly leaped for joy. Blessed are you because you believed what was told to you by the Lord. *(Luke 1:44-45)*

SONG 3: Mary: *(Relieved and encouraged)* SINGS "Mary's Song of Praise" by Seeds Family Worship

Act 2 Scene 2: Still at Elizabeth and Zechariah's Home

Scene: *(Mary and Elizabeth sit down and begin talking)*

Elizabeth: How long do you plan to stay with us?

Mary: Oh a few months at least. I have a lot to ask you. Well mainly Zechariah. Him being a priest and all. I know some of the prophecies of the Messiah, but I was wondering if he could share them with me again. *(With emphasis)* Especially about his birth *(They both laugh)*.

Elizabeth: Oh, didn't you hear. Zechariah can't speak right now.

Mary: Did he lose his voice?

Elizabeth: You could say that. Or that it was taken from him for a while. You see, when the Lord spoke to him about the child that I am carrying, he did not believe him. He did not believe I could get pregnant because I'm well, far beyond the years of childbearing. Blessed are you because you believed. And now you can still talk! *(They both laugh)* He was ashamed with his unbelief early on but is now eager to meet our son. Our son is to be named John. He will go before the Son of God in the Spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the people for the Lord. He is to be born filled with the Holy Spirit. I feel so honored that God would choose me to raise this baby.

Mary: As am I. I pray I do a good job.

Elizabeth: *(jokingly)* Oh, don't worry. We will both make plenty of mistakes like every other mother I know. But God will be with us. He will teach us and show us what these boys need from us, until they need us no more. So, let's begin! I may not be a priest like Zechariah, but I am a priest's wife. I should be able to help you with what you want to know.

Mary: I am all ears.

Elizabeth: Let's start with Isaiah. We know that the Messiah will be born of a virgin. You Mary! Isaiah says, "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." *(Isaiah 7:14)*

Mary: That's the prophesy the angel told Joseph in his dream. Immanuel, God with us!

Elizabeth: Oh, and there is more....it also says "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good." *(Isaiah 7:15)*.

Mary: Toddlers eat curds and honey. He will know the difference between good and evil when he is a toddler? Well, He is the Son of God.

Elizabeth: Later Isaiah says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgement and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. *(Isaiah 9:6-7)*

Mary: *(repeats)* The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. A government with peace and true justice. Can you imagine?

Elizabeth: Prior to this he states "By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." *(Isaiah 9:1-2)*

Mary: *(Contemplating and looking at her belly)* He will be the light in the darkness. *(Shifting subjects)* Galilee! Nazareth is in Galilee. I thought God might have made a mistake when he picked a town as rejected and despised as Nazareth. But now I see the Messiah is supposed to come from Galilee according to God's word.

Elizabeth: *(Long Yes)* Yes...and no.

Mary: What do you mean no?

Elizabeth: There is actually another location according to Micah.

Mary: Another location? Where is it?

Elizabeth: Bethlehem. The prophesy states "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose going forth is from of old, from everlasting." *(Micah 5:2)*

Mary: Bethlehem? But I don't live anywhere near Bethlehem. That's a very long journey from Nazareth.

Elizabeth: Well, the good news is you don't have to figure that out. If God wants you in Bethlehem he will get you there.

Mary: If I have learned anything in all of this, it is nothing is impossible with God. He is faithful. I will trust in Him and wait for his guidance in all things.

Elizabeth: If we miss trusting in Him than we have missed the point. God wants our faith, our belief, our trust. He will direct our paths. Look at us! He already is! *(Rubbing their bellies)*

Elizabeth and Mary: *(together)* Because nothing is impossible with God!

Act 2 Scene 3: Joseph's Shop

Scene: *(Back to "Joseph's shop". A pregnant Mary walks in)*

Mary: Hi Joseph! I'm home from Elizabeth's.

Joseph: *(Get's up excited to see her)* Oh I'm so glad your back. And wow! He's really grown. *(Looking at her belly)*

Kid Apprentice: He? How do you know it's a boy? I have a lot of brothers and sisters and my mom told me that we wouldn't know if they were a girl or boy until they were born.

Mary and Joseph: *(look at each other, to question if they should tell him. Mary gives Joseph a smile to tell him)*

Joseph: *(To kid)* The reason we know is this isn't just any baby.

Kid Apprentice: *(Looking puzzled)*

Joseph: This baby is the promised Messiah. He is God's son and he will live amongst us. This baby is who we have been waiting for.

Kid Apprentice: What? That's amazing! How did you find this all out?

Joseph: Well, Mary and I were both visited by an angel of the Lord and the angel told us the same thing. That Mary would become pregnant with the Son of God and that he would save the people from their sins.

Kid Apprentice: *(Excited yelling!)* I can't believe it. *(Calmer)* Oh, I mean I do believe it. But wow! An angel? The Messiah? This is the most exciting news ever! I can't wait to tell everyone that I know. Can I be excused for the day Joseph? I'm just so excited I want to spread the news right now!

Joseph: Well, ok! I'll see you tomorrow.

Kid Apprentice: *(Runs out)*

Mary: You know some people may not be very excited to hear what he has to say about this. I know I have had to endure some pretty uncomfortable reactions from other people.

Joseph: Yes, that is true. But then again there also may be some who believe him and will rejoice with him. I wouldn't want him to miss out on those reactions.

Mary: As always, your answer is wiser than mine.

Joseph: *(Sits down with her)* So, tell me about your trip.

Mary: Oh my, I have so much to tell you. Elizabeth shared so much with me about our son. *(corrects)*...I mean God's son. Can I say our son?

Joseph: *(Holds her hands)* Of course. God has given him to us for now. He is and will be our son. Our son. I really like the sound of that.

Mary: Me too. She told me of the location he was to "come out of" as the scripture says. And it is Bethlehem. I have been thinking a lot about it. Because, well for one we don't live in Bethlehem. I've never even been there. But Elizabeth assured me that God would guide us if that is where he is to be born.

Joseph: Bethlehem? Interesting.

Mary: *(Quizzically)* What's so interesting about it?

Joseph: Well, I'm from the line of David and King David was from Bethlehem. That is where he grew up and was a shepherd for his father's flocks. You know, before he moved into the palace with King Saul and then became king himself...not by birthright but chosen by God. Come to think of it, that's what the angel called me. "Joseph son of David."

Mary: That is interesting.

Joseph: I'm not sure how that gets us to Bethlehem, but I agree with Elizabeth. If God wants us there, we will end up there. *(Thinking)* Maybe I should start planning just in case. It's a long journey.

Scene: *(Knock on the door. Joseph gets up and answers it. In walks a town Official/Roman guard)*

Joseph: Come in. May I help you?

Official/Guard: Yes, I come to announce the decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world is to be registered. You and all of your household are to return to the town of your ancestry.

Joseph: When?

Official/Guard: As soon as possible. *(States matter of factly and then leaves quickly)*

Joseph: *(To Mary)* Well there you have it. Bethlehem it is.

Mary: I'll start packing.

Act 2 Scene 4: Town of Nazareth

Scene: *(Women talking near a table with apples and bread. Kids huddled on the other end of the stage playing a game and talking too. Kids playing and talking in silence while women talk-but look like they are still interacting)*

Townswoman 1 (TW1): Good morning!

Townswoman 2 (TW2): Oh, good morning!

Townswoman 3 (TW3): How was your evening last night?

TW1: Honestly, it was a little odd and a little disturbing.

TW3: Disturbing? What do you mean?

TW1: Well, you know how my son is apprenticing under Joseph?

TW2: Yes. We have questioned many times why you still allow him over there considering "the past few months".

TW1: *(Annoyed)* You know very well why. Nazareth doesn't have much in the way of trade and I need my son to earn a living. Regardless of what "has happened", Joseph is a skilled carpenter, and my son is learning a lot under his supervision.

TW3: Yes, but what else is he learning under his supervision?

TW1: Well, that's just it. Last night he came home and told us all that Mary's *(quietly says baby)* "baby" is the promised Messiah.

TW2 and TW3: *(Both laugh judgmentally)*

TW1: I know! I'd be laughing too if it weren't my son who these lies were being told to. I'm concerned. He's still only a child and children will believe anything if they trust someone enough.

TW2: It sounds like you need to set your son right and find him another trade.

TW1: Agreed, but again, where? Nazareth has very little to offer.

TW2 and TW3: *(Shake their heads agreeingly)*

(Lights shift to kids-women continue talking but are silent)

Town Kid 1: Ah! You beat me again? You are just too good at this game.

Town Kid 2: *(Overconfident)* It's all in the wrist. Don't worry. Just keep practicing and you will be as good as I am. It will come in time.

Kid Apprentice: Hey, didn't you just start playing this last week? I remember beating you.

Town Kid 2: Fine! I've been practicing, ok? My big brother gave me some tips and they have really worked. I could show you guys. Then we could beat this whole town together.

Town Kid 1: Did you guys hear about the Census? My mom says we have to go on a trip soon.

Town Kid 3: Us too! We have to go to Hazor. It's not too far. We have family there so it will be a fun trip.

Town Kid 1: We have to go to Mizpah. It's far far away. We will be leaving tomorrow.

Kid Apprentice: I wonder where Joseph and Mary have to go to?

Town Kid 2: Joseph and Mary? Why wonder about them? My mom says we aren't supposed to talk to them anymore.

Kid Apprentice: Why not?

Town Kid 2: Because they broke a law.

Town Kid 1: Which one?

Town Kid 2: I don't know! An unforgiveable one.

Kid Apprentice: That's not true. They didn't break any laws. Joseph and Mary are the best. They follow all the laws all the time. They are almost perfect.

Town Kid 3: Nuh Uh! No one can be perfect. That's what my mom said. No matter how hard we try we can't be perfect.

Kid Apprentice: Well, then why did God give Mary the Messiah in her belly?

Town Kid 2: What? Her baby is the Messiah?

Town Kid 3: You mean the Messiah that is supposed to save Israel? We pray for the Messiah to come every day.

Town Kid 1: Us too! My dad says that once the Messiah comes he will conquer Rome and we won't have anymore problems. He's supposed to bring a kingdom to the earth that will never end. And Israel will be saved.

Town Kid 2: How do you know Mary's baby is the Messiah?

Kid Apprentice: Because they were both told by an angel of the Lord.

Town Kids 1, 2, and 3: *(all gasp in amazement at the same time)*

Kid Apprentice: Yah! I know!

Town Kid 3: Wow! The Messiah is coming. Do you think he will want to play with us?

Town Kid 2: Of course! He's the Messiah. He will be everyone's friend.

(Mary and Joseph come out into the town ready to leave. Kids see them and run over to the Townswomen, their moms, for provisions)

Town Kid 2: Hey mom, may I have an apple?

TW2: Sure honey! *(Hands him an apple, goes back to talking, not paying attention)*

Town Kid 3: Excuse me mom. May I have some bread?

TW3: Here you go *(Hands him a small loaf of bread, goes back to talking, not paying attention)*

Town Kid 1: *(Nervous)* Oh, hi Mary! Hi Joseph!

Town Kid 2: *(offers an apple to Mary)* This is for the Messiah. My mom says apples keep me healthy so maybe if you eat it the Messiah will be healthy.

Mary: Thank you! I will make sure to eat it on our trip so he stays nice and healthy.

Town Kid 3: *(Offers bread to Joseph)* Maybe this bread can also help the Messiah on the journey. Uh, I mean you guys so that you can take care of him.

Joseph: Thank you! It will help us out very much.

Kid Apprentice: Take care of the Messiah. We need him to come back and be our friend.

(Mary and Joseph look at each other and smile encouragingly. Townswomen look on in judgement as they leave)

All the kids: *(Wave goodbye excitedly shout out different things such as...)* Bye! Take care of the Messiah! Come back soon!

Act 3 Scene 1: Town of Bethlehem

Scene: *(Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem: Re-sign Nazareth Town to Bethlehem. They knock on some doors and ask for a place to stay).*

Joseph: *(Knocking on doors-comes to first door)* Excuse me do you have a room we could stay in? My wife is expecting a baby very soon.

Innkeeper 1: I'm sorry. We are completely full.

Joseph: *(Joseph goes to the next door)* Excuse me. We are looking for a place to stay. Do you have any room? My wife is pregnant and....

Innkeeper 2: *(Interrupts)* Nope! All full here. *(Shuts door in his face)*

Joseph: *(prays)* Lord, we need you to provide a place for us. Please show us where we can stay. Your son is about to be born and we need shelter. Please provide.

Bethlehem Townsperson: *(Bethlehem Townsperson walks by Joseph)* You are going to have a hard time finding a place to stay here. We are all full because of the census.

Joseph: Yes. It is why we are here as well.

Bethlehem Townsperson: I can't offer you a room, but I can offer you shelter. Down the path here is a barn where I keep my animals. You are more than welcome to stay the night in it. May God be with you both.

Joseph: Thank you. We will take you up on your offer. May God be with you as well.

Mary: Thank you Lord for providing! Quickly Joseph. The baby is on his way.

Act 3 Scene 2: At the Barn

Scene: *(The house scene made into a barn. In the barn Mary is holding the baby in her knees while leaning against a bale of hay. Manger placed on scene)*

Mary: *(joyful but softly)* He's here!

Joseph: *(in amazement)* He's so little. Just a baby. The Son of God is in your arms. Jesus. His name is Jesus.

Mary: *(Looks at the baby and repeats the name)* Jesus.

SONG 4: Mary: SINGS "You're Here" by Francesca Battistelli

(Lights go down to a dark stage)

Act 3 Scene 3: Shepherds in a Field

Scene: *(*Set Idea: Throw a dark star like sheet over the barn to make it feel like a dark night without removing the manger scene. 3-4 kids dressed up as sheep. 2-3 Shepherds, and 1 kid shepherd (with a drum), sitting around a campfire. Sound of crickets in the background. Side stage available for angel choir)*

Sheep: *(lightly baaing)*

Shepherd 1: Let's put another log on. It's dying down fast.

Shepherd 2: *(Hands log to shepherd 1)* Here you go!

Shepherd 1: *(Takes log)* Thanks! *(Puts log on fire)*

(Long boring pause as the shepherds sit in silence and do nothing. Crickets in the background)

Kid Shepherd: I can't handle it. The silence! It's too much.

Shepherd 3: Get used to it. This is the life of a shepherd.

Kid Shepherd: Yes, but King David was a shepherd too and he sang to God while he took care of his sheep. I think the sheep might like singing more than just silence. I could play my drum and we could sing to God like King David.

All Shepherds: *(at the same time)* No!

Shepherd 2: We always have to listen to you playing that drum. Maybe we want a little piece and quiet tonight.

Kid Shepherd: But I play for God. Isn't it better to worship God than to just sit in silence?

Shepherd 3: Maybe we are worshipping God with our silence. Be still and know that He is God.

Kid Shepherd: Sounds boring. I wish something exciting would happen. Maybe we will see a shooting star tonight. *(Looks up)* Actually that star over there is really big and really bright. Have you ever seen a star like that before?

(All shepherds look up and stare at it in amazement)

Shepherd 1: Wow! Where do you think it came from? I've never seen one that big.

Shepherd 2: Or that bright!

(Angel appears before them, light on him. Shepherds grab the Kid Shepherd for protection and huddle together on the other side of the fire across from the angel looking terrified. Meanwhile angel choir loading on dark end of stage)

Gabriel: Do not be afraid! For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. *(Luke 2:10-13)*

(Angel Choir lights up)

All Angels together: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! *(Luke 2:14)*

SONG 5: Angel Choir SINGS "Prince of Heaven" by Hillsong Worship

(Stage goes dark as we return to the shepherds around the fire as in original scene. Angel choir exits the stage. Back to cricket sounds)

Sheep: *(baaing lightly)*

Shepherd 1: *(In awe and wonder)* That angel said the Savior has been born in the City of David.

Shepherd 2: *(Continued in awe and wonder)* Yes, Bethlehem! He said we are to look for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Kid Shepherd: *(Matter of factly)* A manger? Like in a barn? Isn't that where animals live and eat? Why would the Savior be born there?

Shepherd 3: It doesn't matter where he was born. He was born! A Savior, Christ the Lord! Quick! Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has shown to us through his angel.

(They get up and go. Sheep follow too)

Act 3 Scene 4: At the Barn

(Manger scene: Mary and Joseph are sitting looking at Jesus in the manger, admiring him. Shepherds arrive)

Kid Shepherd: *(as they come on stage)* Hey look! That huge star is right above this barn. Do you think it's for the Savior? God must really love him to give him the present of a star so bright.

(Mary and Joseph look up surprised but not afraid)

Shepherd 2: Excuse us, but we were just told by an angel of the Lord that a baby has been born here tonight.

Shepherd 1: And not just any baby. The Savior. Christ the Lord.

Shepherd 3: The Messiah.

Joseph: Yes! This is him. He is the Son of God, and his name is Jesus. He will save the people from their sins.

Shepherd 1: *(Repeats in awe)* Jesus.

Mary: *(looks to Joseph)* Another angel. God truly is with us. *(To the shepherds)* I'd love to know what the angel said to you.

Kid Shepherd: Oh I remember! There was a huge light. Brighter than the star above this barn and the angel said *(In a repeating voice)*, "Do not be afraid!" *(Leans over and says to Mary)* Because we were really afraid! "For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Shepherd 2: And there he is. Just as the angel said.

Mary: I was also visited by an angel and he told me that I would become pregnant through the Holy Spirit. That his name would be Jesus. He said of this baby that he will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Shepherd 3: The Messiah. The one we have been waiting for.

Kid Shepherd: *(To Mary)* I love to sing and play my drum for God. May I sing Him a song?

Mary: *(Smiling encouragingly)* Absolutely!

SONG 6: Shepherds SING "His name is Wonderful" Chris Tomlin *(Kid Shepherd will have little drummer boy solo, additional lines inside of song not currently on this script)*

Shepherd 1: We must now return to our sheep. But we will be watching and waiting to see what our new King will do.

(Shepherds leave rejoicing and praising God as they leave the stage)

Mary: I'm so tired. Can you take the baby for a bit? He will hopefully be asleep soon.

Joseph: *(Taking the baby)* Of course. Rest well Mary.

(Mary turns over to sleep)

SONG 7: Joseph *(to the baby)* SINGS "Joseph's Lullaby" by Mercy Me.

(Stage goes dark)

Act 4 Scene 1: Jerusalem

Scene: *(Using same "town" as Jerusalem. Might need to "glam it up a bit". Mary and Joseph arrive in Jerusalem with baby Jesus)*

Joseph: Isn't this exciting! Today we get to present him at the temple as our first born.

Mary: It's very exciting. Did you get the sacrifice we need?

Joseph: Yep! We are all ready.

Scene: *(Mary and Joseph head into "the temple" area. Simeon also heads into the temple area "led by the Spirit". Anna is in the background praying and praising the Lord at the temple)*

Simeon: *(To Mary and Joseph)* Excuse me! I don't mean to alarm you but the Spirit of the Lord has led me to you.

Joseph: To us?

Simeon: Well, to your son. You see, the Holy Spirit has told me that I would not die before I saw the Christ. Your son, correct?

Mary: Yes! He is the Christ. The Son of God. His name is Jesus.

Simeon: *(In awe)* Jesus. May I hold him? For just a moment?

Mary: Of course. *(Gives Jesus to Simeon)*

Simeon: *(Looking at the child and then up to heaven)* Blessed are you Oh Lord! Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. *(Gives the baby back to Mary. Puts his hands on both Mary and Josephs shoulders and says to them)* Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign spoken against, yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. Thank you for letting me hold your son. May the Lord guide you and bless you as you raise him. *(Luke 2:29-35)*

(Simeon leaves. Anna comes over almost overhearing Simeon)

Anna: Thank you Lord! You have sent your salvation to us! *(Talking to the crowd)* This is the Christ. The promised Messiah. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. He is your redemption, Israel. He is the world's redemption.

Mary: *(to Anna)* Excuse me, but have you also been waiting for him?

Anna: Yes. I am a prophetess from the tribe of Asher. I have been at this temple for a long time. *(Emphasizes)* A long time! Fasting, praying, and waiting. I've been waiting for Him to be revealed. And now that he has been I will not stop telling people about his redemption until God takes me from this earth. Take care of our Salvation. I will be praying for you both.

Mary: Thank you!

(Mary and Joseph look at each other in amazement and end looking at the baby in awe. All Cast members join them on stage as they sing the last song)

SONG 8: Choir-All Cast Members SING "His Name is Wonderful Reprise" starting at Bridge: Come Let us Worship Him... then one chorus.