

# GGF Spontaneous Children's Christmas Play



Gathering song(s): **What Child is This**

**PRAISE TEAM**

Pastoral Welcome & Prayer

**Play during prayer: Angels from the Realm of Glory**

**PIANIST**

*(Cue Mary to go on sit at center stage during prayer; Spotlight off)*

## Program Notes

### Scene 1: Mary & Gabriel Luke 1:26-38

**NARRATOR** (hand mic) reads all lines starting at the far left margin, and pauses at every  below for action to take place, line segments to be repeated after him by the cast, or songs to be sung. He/she should laugh at glitches, ad lib, and weave stage direction into the narrative!

Narrator: 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth,

(Gabriel enters from stage right and stands stage right; Spotlight on him)

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

**Congregation sings: Angels from the Realm of Glory**

**PRAISE TEAM**

**Play: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**PIANIST**

28 And coming in,

(Gabriel goes to Mary from stage left; Spotlight follows him)

(the angel Gabriel) said to her,

"Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son,

and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called

the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him

the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign

over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end. "

**Congregation sings: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**PRAISE TEAM**

**Play: Trust and Obey**

**PIANIST**

34 And Mary said to the angel,

"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High

will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring

shall be called the Son of God.

37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And Mary said,

"Behold, the bond-slave of the Lord; be it done to me

according to your word."

And the angel departed from her.

(Gabriel leaves stage right; Mary kneels and prays silently; Leaves during song)

**Congregation sings Trust and Obey**

**PRAISE TEAM/Guitar**

**Play: Angels We Have Heard on High**

**PIANIST**

### Hand-picked cast:

Narrator

Gabriel

Mary

Joseph

Innkeeper

5 tallest angels

Herod

3 Chief priests/scribes

### Extras:

Angels section

Shepherds section

Animals section

Wisemen section

Kids cast is seated on front rows/sides of auditorium in full costume with adult helpers to await their stage cues.

**Pianist** starts a song as background music and will stop when the **Narrator** stops reading and he or the **Praise Team Leader** says: "Let's sing together..."

**Pianist** then waits about 3 seconds after every congregational song and starts the next song. That will cue the narrator to begin the next segment.

Option: Soloist sings "Mary Did You Know"

## Scene 2: Joseph & Gabriel Matthew 1:18-24

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,

[] (*Joseph enters from stage right and paces; Spotlight on*)

before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, (he fell asleep)

[] (*Joseph lies down on stage to sleep*)

And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

[] "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife;

[] for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

[] 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus,

[] for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

[] **Congregation sings Angels We Have Heard on High PRAISE TEAM**

[] **Play: Emmanuel PIANIST**

22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, (as the angel was) saying,

[] 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son,

[] and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means,

[] "God with us."

24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife,

[] (*Joseph wakes up, stands up and exits stage right*)

[] **Congregation sings: Emmanuel PRAISE TEAM**

[] **Play: O Little Town of Bethlehem PIANIST**

[] (*Cue innkeeper to enter stage right & manger animals to center stage; Spot off*)

## Scene 3: Innkeeper & Manger scene Luke 2:1-7

2:1 Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee,

[] (*Joseph & Mary enter from stage left; slowly travel to stage right to inn; Spot on*)

from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

[] **Congregation sings: O Little Town of Bethlehem PRAISE TEAM**

[] **Play: Away in a Manger PIANIST**

And when they came to an inn, Joseph said:

[] "Please sir, do you have room for us in your inn?" And the innkeeper said:

[] "I'm sorry, sir. But my inn is full." And Joseph replied:

[] "But my wife is great with child. Have you nothing for us?" To which the Innkeeper answered:

[] "There is a dry, warm stable behind the inn. Stay there if you like."

And so Mary and Joseph went to the stable to settle in for the night.

[] (*Mary and Joseph move to center stage manger; Spot follows*)

[] Joseph  
[] Gabriel

[] Innkeeper  
[] Mary & Joseph  
[] Animals

**[] Congregation sings: *Away in a Manger***  
**[] Play: *Silent Night***

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

6 And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**[] Congregation sings: *Silent Night***  
**[] (Cue 5 tallest angels to peek out of baptistry to see the manger during song)**  
**[] Play: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks***  
**[] (Spotlight goes out; Mary, Joseph & animals stay center stage; angels depart)**

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

**[] Mary**  
**[] Joseph**  
**[] Animals**  
**[] 5 tallest angels**

#### **Scene 4: Shepherds, Angels and Manger Scene Luke 2:8-20**

8 And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.

**[] (Cue shepherds to wander in from stage right to stage right; SPOTLIGHT on them)**

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them,  
**[] (Cue ONE angel to come if from stage right to stage right)**

and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

**[] Congregation: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks***  
**[] Play: *The First Noel***

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

10 And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

**[] Congregation sings: *The First Noel***  
**[] Play: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host  
**[] (Cue MULTITUDE of angels to come on stage from all directions to stage right)**

praising God, and saying,

**[] 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And peace on earth, good will toward men."**  
**[] Congregation sings: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing***  
**[] Play: *O Come All Ye Faithful***

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

15 And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven,  
**[] (Angels "fly off" the stage in all directions)**

that the shepherds began saying to one another,

**[] "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."**

16 And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

**[] (Shepherds move to center stage to kneel around manger; Spotlight follows)**  
**[] Congregation sings: *O Come All Ye Faithful***  
**[] Play: *Go Tell it on the Mountain***

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

17 And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. NAS

**[] (Shepherds exit stage right; Spotlight follows shepherds exiting stage right)**  
**[] Congregation sings: *Go Tell it on the Mountain***  
**[] (Spotlight off)**  
**[] Play: *We Three Kings***

**PRAISE TEAM**  
**PIANIST**

**[] Shepherds**  
**[] Gabriel**  
**[] Angelic host**

[] (*Cue Herod to sit in chair stage right; Spotlight off*)

### **Scene 5: Wisemen Matthew 2:1-12**

2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi (or wisemen) from the east arrived in Jerusalem,

[] (*Magi entering from right to stand before Herod; Spotlight follows*)

(and the wisemen were) saying,

[] 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?

[] For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."

[] **Congregation sings: We Three Kings**

**PRAISE TEAM**

[] **Play: What Child is This?**

**PIANIST**

3 And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And gathering together all the **chief priests and scribes of the people,**

[] (*Chief priests and scribes enter from stage left to stand before Herod*)

he began to inquire of them:

[] "Where is the Christ to be born?"

5 And they said to him,

[] "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet,

[] 6'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

[] Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;

[] For out of you shall come forth a Ruler,

[] Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod secretly called the wisemen, and ascertained from them the time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said,

[] "Go and make careful search for the Child; and when you have found Him,

[] report to me, that I too may come and worship Him."

9 And having heard the king, they went their way;

[] (*Magi step down stage right to floor and slowly move toward center stage*)

[] (*Herod, scribes and chief priests exit stage right*)

[] **Congregation sings: What Child is This?**

**PRAISE TEAM**

[] **Play: Joy to the World**

**PIANIST**

and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. 10 And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And they came into the house

[] (*Magi move to center stage and kneel down around Mary & Joseph*)

and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of

[] gold [] and frankincense [] and myrrh.

[] **Congregational Finale: Joy to the World**

**PRAISE TEAM**

[] (*Angels gather around on the highest steps in the back during the song*)

[] (*Shepherds return to floor and front two steps during the song*)

[] (*PHOTO OPS*)

**THE END**

[] King Herod  
[] 3 Wisemen  
[] Chief priests & Scribes