

EC Christmas Service 2016

"News of Great Joy"

Processional: "Clap, Clap, Clap" (Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat") - all children
Clap, clap, clap for joy, clap so loud and clear.
Tell the message everywhere, "Christmas time is here."

Ring, ring, ring the bells, ring them far and near.
Tell the message everywhere, "Christmas time is here."

Shout, shout, shout for joy, shout merrily with cheer.
Tell the message everywhere, "Christmas time is here."

Opening Song: "Ring the Bells" PK3

Welcome/Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve

Song: "Little Children Can You Tell" (verse 1 - Pastor Steve, verse 2 - Children)

Narration: (Vicar Noah)

Scene 1 - Mary and the Angel

(Mary and the Angel come to the center)

Narrator: *God sent an angel to Mary, and she was afraid. But, the angel said,*

Angel: *Do not be afraid. God loves you! He is going to give you a baby. You will* name
Him Jesus. He will be God's Son.

Narrator: *Mary was surprised! She said,*

Mary: *How can this be true?*

Narrator: *The angel answered,*

Angel: *Nothing is impossible with God!*

Narrator: *Then, Mary said,*

Mary: *I believe you. I will do whatever God wants.*

Narrator: *Then, the angel left Mary.*

Song (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot") - all children
An angel said to Mary, "Do not fear."

I have a message for you to hear.
You will have a baby, God's own Son.
He will be the chosen One.

Scene 2 - Joseph and the Angel
(Joseph and the Angel come to the center)

Narrator: *When Mary told Joseph the good news, he was confused. He decided not to take Mary as his wife. But an angel of the Lord came to visit Joseph. The angel said,*

Angel: *Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby she is carrying is God's Son.*

Narrator: *Joseph replied,*

Joseph: *I will do what God has said.*

Song (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot") - all children
An angel came to Joseph late one night.
Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.
Jesus is the name of this baby boy.
He will bring the people joy.

Scene 3 - Decree and Donkey Ride
(Caesar Augustus with a scroll and 2 guards come to the center)

Narrator: *In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus. It said:*

Caesar Augustus: *Everyone needs to go back to the place where they were born to be counted.*

Narrator: *So, Mary and Joseph began the long journey to Bethlehem. Now, in those days there weren't cars or planes. So, Mary had to ride on a donkey.*

(Mary rides in a wagon, donkey pulls the wagon, Joseph walks along)

Song (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot") - all children
The leader of the land sent a decree.
Bethlehem was the place to be.
On a donkey Mary would ride.
While Joseph stood right by her side.

Scene 4 - Inn/Stable/Manger

(Bethlehem sign comes to the center, innkeepers take their places, animals go to the barn with barn sign)

Narrator: *When they arrived in Bethlehem, it was very crowded. Mary and Joseph were very tired. So, they looked for a place to rest. When they arrived at an inn, Joseph knocked on the door. The innkeeper opened the door and said,*

Innkeeper #1: *Can I help you?*

Narrator: *Joseph answered,*

Joseph: *We have been traveling for a long time, and we are very tired. Do you have a room for us?*

Narrator: *The innkeeper said,*

Innkeeper #1: *I'm sorry, but we are full.*

Narrator: *Joseph said,*

Joseph: *Thank you!*

Narrator: *So, they continued on their way. They traveled a little further and found another inn. Joseph knocked on the door. The innkeeper answered the door and said,*

Innkeeper #2: *Can I help you?*

Narrator: *Joseph answered,*

Joseph: *We have been traveling for a long time, we are very tired, and my wife is going to have a baby soon. Do you have a room for us?*

Narrator: *The innkeeper said,*

Innkeeper #2: *I'm sorry. I wish I could help you, but we are full.*

Narrator: *So, Mary and Joseph went on a little further. Soon they came across another inn. Joseph knocked on the door. The innkeeper answered and said,*

Innkeeper #3: *Can I help you?*

Narrator: *Mary answered,*

Mary: *Sir, we have been traveling a long way, we are very tired, and I am going to have a baby soon. Do you have a place for us to stay?*

Narrator: *The innkeeper said,*

Innkeeper #3: *I'm sorry. I wish I could help you, but we are full.*

Narrator: *As Mary and Joseph started walking away, the innkeeper called to them and said,*

Innkeeper #3: *Wait! I have a barn out back. It's not much, but it's a roof over your head and a warm place to sleep.*

Narrator: *Mary and Joseph said,*

Mary and Joseph: *Thank you!*

Narrator: *and they went in the barn with the animals. That night baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger.*

Song (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot") - all children
Bethlehem was a crowded town.
There was no room to be found.
A kind man said, "Stay in my barn."
There in a manger Jesus was born.

Scene 5 - Shepherds and Angels (PK4 shepherds, angels, and star poles)
(star poles, shepherds, and an angel (K) come to the center)

Narrator: *On the night Jesus was born, there were shepherds in a field watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel stood before them, and God's light shined all around them. The angel said,*

Angel: *Do not be afraid. I have good news! Today in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born! You will find the baby lying in a manger.*

Narrator: *Then a choir of angels appeared. They sang,*
(PK4 angels come out)

Choir of Angels: *Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to everyone on earth!*

Song (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot") - all children
Out in a big field late one night,
Shepherds saw a brilliant light.

Angels sang great news of joy,
About this special baby boy.

Scene 6 – Shepherds worship Jesus

Narrator: *The shepherds rushed to Bethlehem. There they found the baby Jesus lying in a manger just as the angels had said. They knelt down and worshipped the newborn Savior. The shepherds left and spread the good news to everyone they met.*
(Shepherds go to the barn where Mary and Joseph are, and kneel down.)

Shepherds: *Jesus is born! Jesus is born! (walk around telling people)*

Song (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot") - all children
The shepherds heard the angels sing.
Then went to see the newborn King.
They left and went to spread the Word,
Of everything that they had heard.

Narrator: *We, too, can be like the shepherds and tell, sing, and shout the Good News about the birth of our Savior!*

Closing Song: "Go Tell" (PK4 - verses 1-3)

Recessional: "Joy to the World" (All children with congregation)

Notes:

- Background - pallets with lights and JOY letters
- Need Bethlehem and Barn sign
- Need 3 inn signs
 - The "Merry"ot
 - The "Holly"Day Inn
 - "Sandals" Resort
- Need wagon and donkey
- Make bamboo star poles