

5. Bales of hay – one on which Mary can sit beside the manger.
6. 3 caskets (gifts) the Wise Men will offer.
7. Brazier or fire (artificial flames!!) around which shepherds gather. Crooks.
8. Spotlight or powerful torch.
9. Clothing appropriate to characters.

SCENE ONE

Stage set with backdrop and manger hidden by curtain/screen. Church/hall in darkness. It is night. Stage semi-lit. The FIRST WISE MAN runs on stage pointing up excitedly. The star lights up.

Wise Man One: "Look at the star!" (pointing)

Enter Wise Man Two: "Look at the star! " (pointing)

Enter Wise Man Three: "Just look at the star!" (pointing)

STAR THEME IS PLAYED

All Wise Men: "We have never seen such a star before!

Wise Man One: "So bright!"

Wise Man Three: "So big!"

Wise Man Two: "So beautiful!"

PAUSE

All Wise Men: "Just look at that star! It must surely tell of something wonderful!"

Wise Man Two: "But what?"

Wise Man Three: "Maybe a child..."

Wise Man One: "A newborn king!"

PAUSE

All Wise Men : "Just look at that star standing still, so still."

Wise Man One: "It's waiting for us. Shall we follow its light?"

Wise Men Two and Three: "Yes! We will! We'll leave tonight!"

EXIT Wise Men as STAR THEME is played. Star switched off.

SCENE TWO

Curtain rises. Lights on stage. Church/hall dark. Recorded muted animal sounds. Enter Mary and Joseph, his arm protectively over Mary's shoulders.

Joseph: "I'm sorry, Mary that I couldn't find a better place to stay on such a cold night.

But the inn keeper was kind, and this stable is warm and dry."

Mary: "You did your best, Joseph. You are a good man and just – and you fear God. And

he has chosen you to care for me and the child who will be born tonight."

Joseph: "The child of whom the prophets wrote!"

Mary: "The child of whom the angel spoke! A miracle!"

Joseph and Mary remain on stage, Joseph moving to stand behind Mary who sits down. Stage lights off.

SCENE THREE

The Star lights up and the STAR THEME is played as the Wise Men enter from entrance to church/hall and walk down the aisle in single file. About halfway down the aisle they stop and talk.

Wise Man One: "What did you think of King Herod?"

Wise Men Two and Three: "Don't trust him! Don't trust him!"

All Wise Men: "He will harm the newborn king if he can!"

They continue walking and exit.

SCENE FOUR

Stage lights on. Church/hall lights off. Mary, sitting, is gently rocking baby Jesus in her arms. She sings her solo and at the end rises and tucks the baby in the manger.

MARY'S SOLO

Jesus Jesus

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace

REPEAT SONG

Enter Little Children (3-6 years-old) while one verse of their song is being played. They sit in front of the manger – two or three stand looking into the manger. They sing their song.

WELCOME LITTLE LORD JESUS

Welcome little Lord Jesus

Welcome, welcome

Welcome little Lord Jesus

Welcome to the world

Sleep little Lord Jesus

Sleep, sleep

Sleep little Lord Jesus

On the soft hay

Welcome little Lord Jesus

Welcome, welcome

Welcome little Lord Jesus

Welcome to the world.

Curtain down or screen in place.

Exit Joseph, Mary, manger and children

Stage lights off

SCENE FIVE

The star lights up and the STAR THEME is played. The three Wise Men, spotlighted in darkened church/hall. They enter and exit as before but from different points if possible.

Wise Man Two: "Look at the star! It's stopped!"

Wise Man Three: "And it's shining even brighter than before!"

Wise Man One: "Right over the town of Bethlehem!"

SCENE SIX

Lights out on stage. Only the star remains alight so that the stage is dimly lit. Shepherds enter. One carries a brazier which he puts down near the front of the stage. The Shepherds gather around and talk. Sound effects: crackle of fire (recorded!), bleating sheep.

SHEPHERD ONE: "Another quiet night – much the same as all the others."

SHEPHERD TWO: "It's a bit colder than last night." He rubs his hands over the brazier.

SHEPHERD THREE: "Just as well we got the sheep in the fold early."

SHEPHERD FOUR: "Especially after all the time it took us to find that lost lamb."

SHEPHERD FIVE: "Let's get an early night. We can do with it."

They wrap blankets round themselves and settle down next to the brazier.

Enter Angel of the Lord, spotlight on Angel who has huge wings. Angel stands on small box.

The Shepherds wake up, fearful and amazed. They shield their eyes as they look at the Angel and cower.

ANGEL OF THE LORD: "Fear not. I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you. You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Other Angels enter quickly and lightly and stand in front of the Angel of the Lord. Their wings are much smaller. Full lighting on stage. They sing their song.

ANGELS' SONG

Glory to God!

Glory to God!

Glory to God in the highest!

Glory glory to God! (x8)

Peace on earth goodwill to men! (x8)

Glory glory to God! (x8)

CONGREGATION STANDS QUICKLY AND JOINS IN FOR REPEAT OF THIS VERSE. Church/hall lights on.

Exit Angels fast.

SCENE SEVEN

Manger scene is set with Mary, Joseph, manger. Shepherds grouped on one side.

Lights on stage, church/hall darkened. Spotlight on Wise Men as they enter,

walking down aisle on to stage and carrying their gifts which they present in turn before kneeling in an attitude of prayer (folded hands) around the manger.

Wise Man One: "Lord, I bring you gold." (Kneels)

Wise Man Two: "Lord, I bring you myrrh." (Kneels)

Wise Man Three: "Lord, I bring you frankincense." (Kneels)

All Wise Men: "Lord, we bring ourselves."

Wise Men rise and stand on opposite side of manger to the Shepherds.

Enter: Angels. They stand around and behind the Wise Men.

Enter: Little Children. They sit in front of the manger.

SONG: Sung by everyone on stage (can omit Little Children). First time as solo: (boy? Not Mary).

LORD JESUS A BABY

Lord Jesus a baby

Born long ago

We love you

We praise you

And we all know

You are our Savior

You are our Lord

We worship you now

You are adored!

SUNG TWICE 1. Solo. 2. All on stage.

SCENE EIGHT

All lights on (Church/hall, stage, Star)

Groups of children from different countries enter in turn from as many different points as possible. After saying their lines they wait for the other groups to enter.

Group One: "We are from Africa
 Christ is our king!"

Group Two: "We are from China
 Praise him and sing!"

Group Three: "We are from Europe
 He is our Lord!"

Group Four: "We are from Russia
 Christ is adored!"

Group Five: "We are from India
 We worship him there!"

Group Six: "We are from America
 We worship him here!"

All the groups walk down the aisle on to the platform singing their song.

LET ALL NATIONS PRAISE HIM!

Let all nations praise him

Let all nations say

Jesus Christ is Lord

Worship him today

SUNG x3

REPEAT SONG

Platform groups rise and all sing Amen Hallelujah, loudly, joyfully, jubilantly.

AMEN HALLELUJAH!

Amen hallelujah! (x3)

Amen

REPEAT VERSE x4

REPEAT SONG. Angels only singing the Amens, others sing everything.

REPEAT SONG FOR THIRD TIME: Audience rises and joins in.

1435 Words