

Nativity

**A Celebration
of
Jesus Christ**

**Book, & Lyrics
by
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**Music
by
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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Shem	A Shepherd
Benjamin	A Shepherd
Daniel	A Shepherd
David	A Young Shepherd
Gabriel	Archangel
Herod	The Ruler
Sage 1	
Sage 2	Prophets or seers
Sage 3	
Man 1	
Man 2	
Man 3	
Saul	(Later becomes Paul)
Jesus	
Crowd Usher	
Friar	
Monk 1	
Monk 2	
Monk 3	
Monk 4	
Monk 5	
Monk 6	
Murdoch	
Cyrius	
Mary	
Joseph	
Innkeeper	
Wife	
Wiseman 1	
Wiseman 2	
Wiseman 3	



Chorus of Angels; Paul's followers (early Christians)
Choir

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Prologue - The Road to Bethlehem

(As the show commences, a group of shepherds enter through the auditorium and walk towards the stage. They will shortly be interrupted by the angel Gabriel, who should appear up on a rostra above the group of shepherds.)

Shem: It's a very cold night tonight, Benjamin. I hope the sheep will be safe in the fold.

Benjamin: The last time it was this cold we had wolves after the flock.

Daniel: It's because they sense the hard winter ahead, they come after food - and what better than lamb chops?

Shem: They will be safe with young David watching over them.

David: **(Running in after them)** Wait, wait!

Shem: I spoke too soon.

Benjamin: David! What are you doing here? You should be back at the fold, watching over the sheep.

David: I came after you, to stop you from going into town.

Daniel: Why?

David: Haven't you seen that brilliant star in the sky? It's a bad omen.

Shem: You'll be a bad omen if any of the sheep have been nabbed by wolves. Master'll have our guts for garters! As for bright stars, I think you must have had too much broth. It's affecting your eyes **(All the shepherds laugh)** And as for omens....

Benjamin: Go back, David. If the sheep get stolen, we shall have to replace them and explain to our master why no-one was watching over them.

David: But I tell you, I did see a bright star - it's light was blinding.

Daniel: If you don't go back to the fold, you will be seeing stars all right....

Shem: ... and blinding lights!!

(He is interrupted by the appearance of Gabriel. The angel should be above the shepherds either on the stage or a rostra block set to one side. If possible the lights should dim to just one bright light on the angel.)

Gabriel: Don't be afraid. I bring you good news, wonderful news, glad tidings of great joy for you to witness and for all the world to hear. In Bethlehem tonight, the Saviour, the Messiah, promised by God and foretold by the prophets, has been born. You will find the baby, wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger in a stable. When you see Him, you will know that He is the Lord, the Saviour!

(The lights brighten as a whole group of angels appear on stage, gathered around Gabriel and sing.)

Song One - Glory to the Lord

(Chorus)

Come on and sing Glory,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Come on and sing Glory,
Glory to the Lord.

He is born in Bethlehem
Sing praises to His name
Jesus, Lord and Saviour
The wond'rous birth proclaim.

Come on and sing Glory,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Come on and sing Glory,
Glory to the Lord.

Peace to all who live on earth
Goodwill to all mankind.
Joyful news we bring you
To ease your troubled minds.

Come on and sing Glory,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Come on and sing Glory,
Glory to the Lord.

Hail to Jesus born today,
Hear angel voices sing,
Trumpets sound to praise Him
As Lord and King of Kings.

Come on and sing Glory,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Come on and sing Glory,
Glory to the Lord.
Come on and sing Glory,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Come on and sing Glory,
Glory to the Lord.
Glory to the Lord.
Glory to the Lord.
To the Lord!

(As the song finishes, the lights fade on the angels and they disappear from view.)

David: Now do you believe me. I told you

Benjamin: Okay, okay, you did see a bright star. But let's not waste time here arguing about it, let's go to Bethlehem and see the Saviour for ourselves.

Shem: (As they exit) ... but what about the sheep?

Daniel: Oh shut up, Shem. This is better than counting sheep all night!!

(As the shepherds head off towards the stage for their exit, the choir sing the second number - Christmastime.)

Song Two - Christmastime

(Solo and Chorus)

Solo: In a stable, long ago, was born a Holy Child
Lord and Saviour, yet so meek and mild.
Join with us to celebrate, the great glad tidings tell
Born for us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Chorus: *Be joyful now that it's Christmas time
Give thanks and praises for Christmas time
God came to earth in Bethlehem
When Jesus Christ was born.
Sing praises now that it's Christmas time
Goodwill, glad tidings to all mankind
God came to earth in Bethlehem
When Jesus Christ was born.*

Solo: In the town of Bethlehem, when Herod reigned supreme,
A babe was born; to Mary, so serene.
No room was found; the inns were full - a cattle stall or shed.
A bed of hay to rest their weary heads.

Chorus: *Be joyful now that it's Christmas time
Give thanks and praises for Christmas time
God came to earth in Bethlehem
When Jesus Christ was born.
Sing praises now that it's Christmas time
Goodwill, glad tidings to all mankind
God came to earth in Bethlehem
When Jesus Christ was born.*

<i>Be joyful now that it's Christmas time</i>	<i>(Christmas time)</i>
<i>Give thanks and praises for Christmas time</i>	<i>(Christmas time)</i>
<i>God came to earth in Bethlehem</i>	
<i>When Jesus Christ was born.</i>	<i>(When Jesus Christ was born)</i>
<i>Sing praises now that it's Christmas time</i>	<i>(Christmas time)</i>
<i>Goodwill, glad tidings to all mankind</i>	<i>(All mankind)</i>
<i>God came to earth in Bethlehem</i>	<i>(God came to Bethlehem)</i>
<i>When Jesus Christ was born.</i>	<i>(When Jesus Christ was born)</i>

Scene One - Herod's Palace

(Herod is seen pacing up and down. He is very angry at what he has just been told. Several of his advisers are explaining what the scriptures foretell.)

- Herod: This is rubbish! I am King!!
- Sage 1: **(Gently trying to calm him)** Yes your majesty. We know that, but others think different.
- Herod: Others? What others?
- Sage 2: The Jewish priests, your majesty, the common people, your subjects. The prophets....
- Herod: **(Interrupting)** ...I don't want to hear what the Jews think. I am King of the Jews! Do I make myself clear?
- Sage 1: Very clear, your majesty. But it doesn't alter the fact that they believe.
- Herod: Believe what?
- Sage 3: Believe in the scriptures. The prophets talk of the coming of a New King - a Saviour - a Messiah.
- Herod: Whaaaaat!! This must be stopped now! Before it gets out of hand. I AM KING!!
- Sage 2: Then you have no choice, your worship.
- Herod: What do you mean, I have no choice.
- Sage 2: If this child has been born, you must remove him - before he grows up to be king.
- Sage 1: If you - **(gently)** dispose - of this child, now - you will remain king.
- Sage 3: And maintain the wonderful Roman Empire that you rule...
- Sage 2: ... that you and the fine, Roman emperor Augustus have built up...
- Sage 1: ...Just think of all the good it has done...
- Herod: Yes, yes, yes. I know all that.
- Sage 2: Well if you - **(gently)** remove - this King, the Roman Empire will remain, with you as King, and you will be seen as the true Saviour.
- Herod: **(Filling up with his own importance at the thought)** Yes! Me - a Saviour - but of course. Not just King and Lord of the Roman Empire but a Saviour as well. **(Pause)** Errm. What exactly am I saving them from?
- Sage 3: **(Flustered)** Well - their sins....
- Sage 1: **(Equally flustered)** ... and the sins of their fathers...
- Sage 3: **(Also flustered)** ... and their forefathers...
- Herod: **(Matter of fact)** Their sins. Yes.

Song Three - What Am I Saving Them From

(Herod & Sages)

Herod: At first came the flood, it wasn't so good;
The rains came down from the skies.

Sages: But Noah was saved, from a watery grave
By building an ark of great size.

Herod: The Nile it did flood, was turned into blood
Polluted all in its wake.

Sages: Then frogs plagued the land, just as their God had planned
But Moses escaped the heartache.

All: What more could they want?
What more could they need?

Herod: Just what am I saving them from?
They seem to do well,
But now they rebel.
So what am I saving them from?

Sages: Nine plagues they survived, they all stayed alive,
With Moses along as their guide.

Herod: When water they met, not one became wet,
The Red Sea just parted aside.

Sages: The desert gave nought, fresh water they sought,
Hunger and thirst is a curse.

Herod: But when Manna rained down, and covered the ground
Once more they avoided the worst.

All: What more could they want?
What more could they need?

Herod: Just what am I saving them from?
They seem to do well,
But now they rebel.
So what am I saving them from?

Herod: Then one Philistine, with war on his mind,
Marched on to fight for his King.

Sages: But David set out and then in one bout
He beat him with stone and a sling.

Herod: These people fear not; they give not one jot,
Whatever life throws their way.

Sages: When the going gets tough, and enough is enough,
All: They kneel to their God and they pray.

All: What more could they want?
What more could they need?

Herod: Just what am I saving them from?
They seem to do well,
But now they rebel.
So what am I saving them from?

All: What more could they want?
What more could they need?
Herod: Just what am I saving them from?
They seem to do well,
But now they rebel.
So what am I saving them from?
What am I saving them?
Sages: What is he saving them?
All: What am *(is)* I *(he)* saving them from?

Herod: If they can survive all that without me, they don't need a Saviour.

Sage 1: Well - it is said - this child will grow to be a teacher.... a doctor... and perform miracles.

Herod: Miracles! Ha! Only I can perform miracles - I Herod - the greatest king of all time...

Sage 2: The greatest!

Herod: ***(Picking up on the last statement)*** ... what do you mean, teacher, doctor and miracles.

Sage 3: Come, let us show you.

(They move over to a table where several scrolls, charts etc are placed. They look over the charts.)

Sage 1: Let us show you what the scriptures predict.

(The lights fade down on this scene and come up on the choir.)

