

# A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW016)

## Crib Service


### “God’s Amazing Gift”

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## CRIB SERVICE - "GOD'S AMAZING GIFT"

- Aim of Service:** To present the story of the birth of Jesus, God's amazing gift, using puppet camels, drama and carols.
- Use of Script:** The service length is half an hour and can be used on Christmas Eve. The script contains the words for the puppets and the dramas, and suggestions of carols to sing.
- Main themes:** Birth of Jesus
- Biblical references:** Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
- Characters:** The script is a dialogue between a male camel puppet called "Cameron," who is rather grumpy, and his wife, a female camel puppet called "Camilla." Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>
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- As well as the puppets there are a number of other actors:
- Actors:** Narrator, Angel Gabriel (plus as many non-speaking angels as you like), Mary, Governor, Official, Joseph, Three Innkeepers, Three Shepherds ie Seth, Amos and Benji (plus as many non-speaking shepherds as you like).
- Props:** Some sort of stable at the front of church, Scroll of paper, Baby Jesus, manger.

### Outline of Service:

- Welcome Welcome and opening prayer
- Carol 1: O come all ye faithful (v.1 + chorus)
- Puppets Act 1:
- Drama Act 1: "An Angelic visitation"
- Carol 2: Let me tell you about a baby (v.1,2) (Mark & Helen Johnson © 1994 Out of the Ark Music)
- Puppets Act 2:
- Drama Act 2: "Summons to Bethlehem"
- Carol 3: O little town of Bethlehem (v.1,3)
- Puppets Act 3:
- Drama Act 3: "The baby is born"
- Carol 4: Away in a manger
- Puppets Act 4:
- Drama Act 4: "Strange visitors!"
- Carol 5: While shepherds watched their flocks by night (v.1-4)
- Puppets Act 5:
- Talk: "God's Amazing Gift" and closing prayer
- Carol 6: O come let us adore Him (from Songs of Fellowship Book 1 number 409)

Welcome: Welcome everyone and say an opening prayer

Carol 1: O Come all ye faithful (v.1)

*(Enter Camilla)*

*(The screen the Camel puppets appear behind is at the front of the church/room, set to one side so that the Nativity drama can take place "centre-stage")*

Camilla: Cameron, Cameron....wake up! I have some really exciting news for you.

*(Enter Cameron)*

Cameron: *(yawns)* Oh Camilla, couldn't it wait? I was having such a lovely dream.

Camilla: Let me guess..... it wasn't about food was it?

Cameron: Maybe it was, maybe it wasn't

Camilla: So that would be a yes! It was about food wasn't it? Oh Cameron.... when will you stop thinking about your mighty stomach?

Cameron: I wasn't thinking about my stomach.....simply about getting my teeth sunk into a nice juicy steak, or a little bit of fish cooked in a creamy sauce, or a bowlful of that gorgeous exotic fruity pudding.....

Camilla: Oh that's enough Cameron. Anyway I have something much more exciting to talk with you about.

Cameron: Much more exciting than food?

Camilla: We have been chosen Cameron for a really important assignment.

Cameron: Really?

Camilla: Yes there is great excitement in the town today....I have heard that something amazing has happened and we are going on a journey and there is this star!

Cameron: Slow down, slow down.....I'm still a bit sleepy.

Camilla: And a bit slow!

Cameron: Do you want me to listen to you or not Camilla?

Camilla: I'm sorry Cameron.....I had forgotten how grumpy you are when you first wake up.

Cameron: Hhhhmp. Anyway what are you talking about Camilla? Amazing things happening? Journey? Star? Spit it out old girl.

Camilla: Apparently these really important people.....I think they are wise men have spotted a special star in the sky.

- Cameron: Right.
- Camilla: And this star has something to do with a new King being born
- Cameron: Hmm
- Camilla: And we have been chosen to take these very important people on a journey to find this new King so that they can worship him.
- Cameron: Uh huh....so I guess that means that we will be completely loaded down with stack loads of luggage, and no doubt loads of gifts.....oh my poor old humps! They hurt just thinking about it.
- Camilla: What do you mean, “my poor old humps?” This is wonderful....being chosen for such an important task. I am so excited Cameron ....my humps are all of a jitter.
- Cameron: Oh here we go!
- Camilla: We are off to see a new King Cameron.....you’d better go and get your hooves sorted out.....so you are ready for the off.
- Cameron: Hhhhhhhmph  
(Exit Camilla and Cameron)
- Narrator: As Camilla and Cameron prepare to make this journey, let’s go back in time a few months and see who else has been chosen for a special assignment.  
  
(Enter Mary who stands centre stage and mimes washing up)
- Mary, a young girl in the town of Nazareth, was engaged to a young man called Joseph. He was descended from the great King; King David. One day while Mary was going about her daily business God sent an angel to speak to her.
- (Enter Gabriel who comes and stands alongside Mary)
- Gabriel: Good morning, highly favoured one! The Lord is with you.
- Mary: (Acting afraid) Oh.....what do you mean?
- Gabriel: Do not be afraid Mary. God has chosen you to have a very special baby and you are to give Him the name Jesus.  
  
(Gabriel moves close to Mary, puts his arm around her and mimes speaking with her)
- Narrator: Gabriel carried on to tell Mary that this baby would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High. He would be the greatest King of all and his kingdom would never end. Mary was concerned about Gabriel’s news and said to him:
- Mary: How is this all going to happen?

Narrator: And Gabriel went on to explain that God's Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most high God would overshadow her. Therefore the child born to her would be called the Son of God. He also told her that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby in her old age, for nothing is impossible with God.  
Mary then said:

*(Mary kneels down in front of Gabriel)*

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.

Narrator: *(slowly)* Mary.....an ordinary girl.....chosen to be the carrier of God's Son..... the King of Kings.

**Carol 2:** Let me tell you about a baby (v.1,2)

Narrator: Let's join Camilla and Cameron again as they continue their journey, following the star with the wise men. We catch up with them as they take a well-earned rest one evening.

*(Enter Camilla)*

Camilla: *(singing)* Oh come let us adore Him, Oh come let us adore Him.....

*(Enter Cameron)*

Cameron: Thanks Camilla.....that's very nice of you.

Camilla: I wasn't singing to you Cameron.

Cameron: Oh I see....OK Humphrey.....show yourself .....you are not having my wife's affections.

Camilla: Don't be daft Cameron.....Humphrey isn't here. Anyway you know I love you. It's odd, but this song keeps going round my head as we are walking along, so I thought I would sing it.

Cameron: Very odd old girl....must be the heat getting to you!

Camilla: Hmm or the excitement. I can't believe that we have been chosen Cameron.....for such an important job.....you know that Cambrie is extremely jealous, as is Camoya.

Cameron: Perhaps they wouldn't be quite so jealous if they saw the state of my feet. They are killing me.....I don't know how many more days we are going to be on this wild goose chase....

Camilla: It's not a wild goose chase Cameron

Cameron: Alright then....wild star chase to be precise.....but my feet hurt, and my humps hurt, and my knees hurt

Camilla: And my head hurts from all your moaning and groaning

Cameron: Hhhhmph

- Camilla: Cameron, try and think about the joy waiting for us at the end of this journey. We are going to see a King.....imagine that. We have been chosen to carry very important people to see a King.
- Cameron: But my feet hurt Camilla and I think I have got a stone between my toes.
- Camilla: Oh you poor old thing
- Cameron: And I don't know what on earth they are carrying in those bags on my back.....but they are really heavy.
- Camilla: Gold Cameron.....they are carrying gold
- Cameron: Oh no.....that's all we need.....more trouble
- Camilla: Now what's the problem with you?
- Cameron: We're going to get held up aren't we? Whose crazy idea was it to carry gold across the desert? Any old bandit could come and rob us. Why on earth would we need to take gold to a king anyway.....they have more than enough gold?
- Camilla: I don't know Cameron.....but I have a feeling that this isn't an ordinary King we are going to see.
- Cameron: A feeling in those humps again eh Camilla?
- Camilla: I'm ignoring that comment! Why don't you get some sleep now Cameron, and hopefully you will feel less grumpy in the morning.
- (Exit Cameron)*
- Camilla: *(singing)* Oh come let us adore Him, Oh come let us adore Him.....
- (Exit Camilla)*
- Narrator: Oh dear. Poor old Cameron he is struggling on this long journey isn't he? A few months earlier Mary and Joseph also had to make a long journey. Towards the end of Mary's pregnancy, Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the empire.
- (Enter governor looking official with a scroll of paper in his hand. He stands in the pulpit (if you have one) and reads it)*
- Governor: Hear ye, hear ye, a message from Caesar,  
Hear ye, hear ye, a message from Caesar.  
You lot listen up. Caesar has ordered a census of the entire Roman world. You all have to go to your own towns to register
- (Exit governor)*
- Narrator: So Joseph and Mary had to make the journey from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem the town of David.
- (Enter Mary and Joseph from the side and walk to centre stage and then stand looking at the pulpit)*

Narrator: They had to go and register there because Joseph was descended from King David.

Joseph: At last we have arrived in Bethlehem. Come on Mary we need to go and register.

*(Mary and Joseph stand before the pulpit. Enter Official who stands in the pulpit)*

Official: Name

Joseph: Joseph.....of the house of King David

Official: Next

Mary: Mary.....engaged to Joseph

Official: You look tired....long journey?

Joseph: Very long.

Official: You'd better go and find somewhere to stay quickly for your lady's sake. All the inns are filling up fast.

Joseph: Thank you. Come on Mary.

*(Mary and Joseph exit)*

**Carol 3:** [O little town of Bethlehem v.1,3](#)

Narrator: We catch up now with Camilla and Cameron as they have arrived in Jerusalem.

*(Enter Camilla)*

Camilla: *(singing)* O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, o come let us adore him....

Cameron: Camilla you are making me jealous....shush

Camilla: Sorry Cameron.....it's just that this song keeps welling up inside me...

Cameron: Well at long last we've arrived....we've finally got to our destination.... Jerusalem...

Camilla: It's a splendid place isn't it Cameron....a place fit for a King?

Cameron: And these stables aren't too bad are they?

Camilla: Not too bad! Cameron these are King Herod's stables.....and they are pretty cool. Wait until I tell Cambrie and Camoya all about this. An aquaduct that brings fresh water right past our noses.....amazing!

Cameron: Amazing my hoof...you and your girl friends...it's only a bit of plumbing.

Camilla: I wonder what we'll get fed....something smells nice.

- Cameron: Yes I have to admit I am expecting a pretty good meal tonight. I needed that long drink to fill up my humps. Now I need a hearty meal to fill up my stomach and then a nice long sleep.
- Camilla: Sssh Cameron...I can hear our masters speaking.....and they are whispering..... hmm it's not sounding good.
- Cameron: Oh no.....I don't want to hear anything that doesn't sound good.
- Camilla: I think we might be moving on Cameron.
- Cameron: What!!!! But we have only just arrived. I am happy here. Don't tell me we are going to have to move on again...well I'm not going to...I'm tired....and everything hurts. I'm going on strike.... this is where I am going to stay for the night.
- Camilla: I think not Cameron
- Cameron: What?
- Camilla: I have just heard that the King isn't here.
- Cameron: Isn't in Jerusalem? Don't be daft Camilla....we are in the palace stables. This is where the King lives.
- Camilla: No, no...a new King has been born and apparently King Herod's advisers have said that the prophets of old say that He will be born in Bethlehem.
- Cameron: Bethlehem....Bethlehem....that's miles away
- Camilla: Six miles to be precise Cameron.....I have just heard our masters say
- Cameron: Surely we aren't going there now? I need food. I need water. I need rest.
- Camilla: Ssshhh they're coming. It looks like we are going Cameron
- Cameron: But that's three more hours of trudging along before we find somewhere to rest....I'm not sure I'll last that long Camilla. And anyway it's getting so late that there probably won't be any stables left when we get to Bethlehem for us to stay in.....where are we going to spend the night Camilla....tell me that?
- Camilla: I don't know Cameron.... I don't know. Listen why don't I sing for you?
- Cameron: Sing.....Uuuuuh....I'm going to spit!
- (Exit Camilla and Cameron)*

**Narrator:** I wonder if Camilla and Cameron will find somewhere to stay when they eventually arrive in Bethlehem? Mary and Joseph had the same problem. When they arrived in the city of Bethlehem....it was very very busy with many people needing somewhere to spend the night.



*(Enter Mary and Joseph from back of church. They walk slowly up the church looking for “somewhere to stay” and encountering 3 innkeepers)*

They tried to find a room for the night but they couldn't find anywhere.

Joseph: Does anyone here have a room for us to stay in? It is getting late, and my wife is very tired.

Innkeeper 1: Sorry mate my inn is already full

*(Mary and Joseph walk forward a bit further until they meet Innkeeper 2)*

Innkeeper 2: My inn is full too.....this census is great for business

Joseph: Does no inn have a room for us?

*(Innkeeper 3 appears at the front of the church)*

Innkeeper 3: I don't have a room in my inn, but I do have a room around the back. I am afraid it is where the animals have been living, so it is a bit smelly.

Mary: Thank you very much.

Narrator: So the innkeeper showed them to an outer room he had where the animals lived.

*(Mary and Joseph enter the “stable” at the front of the church)*

That night Mary's baby was born and Mary wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

*(Mary takes baby (that was hidden in the stable) and places it in the manger. Mary and Joseph sit on chairs in the “stable”)*

**Carol 4:** [Away in a manger](#)

Narrator: Camilla and Cameron eventually arrived in Bethlehem. Once they had visited the house where the star had stopped, their masters found them a place to stay.

*(Enter Camilla and Cameron)*

Camilla: Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow.

Cameron: Hmm, now what?

Camilla: I was just thinking about today.....how amazing it has all been....getting to Bethlehem..... the star stopping over that little house..... and then catching a glimpse of the new King.

Cameron: And getting rid of all of that gold! What a relief!

Camilla: It was strange that our masters gave a young child frankincense and myrrh as well as the gold wasn't it Cameron?

- Cameron: This whole thing has been strange if you ask me. But you are right Camilla.....myrrh especially is an odd gift to give a king.....I know that smell anywhere. You smell it coming from the tombs that we pass. It has the smell of death about it.
- Camilla: And did you see how low our masters bowed before Jesus?
- Cameron: Jesus?
- Camilla: The young child Cameron....the new King who was born,.....the new king who we have travelled all of this distance to see.
- Cameron: All right smarty snout.....I knew that all along.
- Camilla: And now look at us. We are in His stable.
- Cameron: His stable?
- Camilla: Jesus' stable Cameron.... The place where he was born a few months ago! What a privilege to be here.
- Cameron: But it isn't like King Herod's stables with the plumbing and the delicious smelling food Camilla..... it's bare and chilly, and rather smelly, even though I say so myself.
- Camilla: Yes I know what you mean. I can smell a rather strong smell of sheep droppings.....there have obviously been a lot of sheep in here....
- Cameron: Sheep.....stupid creatures.....no brains in any of them. I don't expect that they saw Jesus.....far too stupid to know that a king had been born.
- Camilla: Cameron!

*(Exit Camilla and Cameron)*

- Narrator: Maybe Cameron thinks that sheep are stupid creatures, however some shepherds who were living out in the fields, keeping watch over their sheep, had an amazing experience on the night that Jesus was born.

*(Enter shepherds who walk to the centre of the church)*

- Shepherd Seth: It's a cold night tonight Amos.....I can't seem to get warm....I wish I had put on my leg warmers.
- Shepherd Amos: You're right there Seth....it is cold.....let's get a fire going shall we and then we can all warm up?
- Shepherd Benji: Look at those stars.....they seem to be extra bright tonight.
- Narrator: Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them and God's glory shone all around them, and they were terrified.

*(Enter Angel Gabriel who stands before the shepherds. The shepherds act frightened)*

The angel said to them:

Gabriel: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news for all people. Today a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Narrator: The angel then went on to tell the shepherds that they were to look for a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Once the angel had finished speaking, a huge angelic choir appeared singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all men and women on earth who please him."

*(Enter non-speaking angels who move around the shepherds and then go to the stable. The shepherds head for the stable)*

Shepherd Seth: Well we can't keep this good news to ourselves now can we? Come on Amos. Come on Benji....

Shepherd Amos: Yes let's go and tell everyone about the Saviour who has been born for us here in Bethlehem.

Shepherd Benji: Wow this is so exciting!

Narrator: So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger.  
*(Shepherds move up chancel to the stable where they bow down in front of the crib)*

**Carol 5:** [While Shepherds watched their flocks by night](#) (v.1-4)

Narrator: Let's join Camilla and Cameron again as they think about all that has happened as they have travelled from Persia to Bethlehem.

*(Enter Camilla)*

Camilla: *(singing)* O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, o come let us adore him Christ the Lord.

*(Enter Cameron)*

Cameron: Still singing Camilla?

Camilla: Cameron..... that song. It has been in my head all the time we have travelled from Persia to Bethlehem.....

Cameron: Tell me about it!

Camilla: It's a song of worship to Jesus.....

Cameron: Jesus?

Camilla: Cameron your memory seems to be getting worse. Surely you know who Jesus is?

Cameron: Yes of course I know that He is the new King who has been born in Bethlehem. It does however seem strange to me that you would be singing a song to Jesus all the way from Persia to Bethlehem if Jesus was just another ordinary king, like King Herod, or others we know.

Camilla: Wow Cameron..... you are right.

- Cameron: Of course I am right Camilla..... it goes with being a male camel!
- Camilla: Oh do be quiet. But you know Cameron I think you are on to something wonderful. There has been something distinctly odd about Jesus' birth.
- Cameron: You're telling me! We've travelled miles across the desert to follow a star that led our masters to the house where he is staying.
- Camilla: I heard from one of the donkeys, Braemouth that Jesus' dad might be God!
- Cameron: You shouldn't go talking with donkey's Camilla..... they'll fill your head with nonsense.
- Camilla: And the young couple in the house.....I think their names were Mary and Joseph..... had to make a long journey all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem at the worst possible time for Mary, so that the baby would be born in Bethlehem....
- Cameron: .....and that is the place that our masters were told was where a new King would be born.
- Camilla: And then Jesus was born in a stable, which isn't a normal place for a king to be born now is it?.....and Braemouth....
- Cameron: Not Braemouth again....
- Camilla: Braemouth said that they had been kept up half the night when Jesus was born with angels singing. Apparently they were singing that a Saviour had been born for mankind.
- Cameron: And I suppose there is something very unusual about the gifts our masters brought to give to Jesus.
- Camilla: I wonder what all of this means.
- Cameron: Well if Braemouth can be believed....you already know what this means.
- Camilla: I'm not sure I do.
- Cameron: You said that Braemouth had heard angels singing that a Saviour had been born for mankind.....that's for the humans dear.
- Camilla: I know Cameron ....I'm not that thick. So God has sent the humans a Saviour. I wonder if they realise what a wonderful gift they have been given.
- Cameron: A truly amazing, life-changing gift!
- Camilla: You know Cameron sometimes I wish I was a human!
- (Exit Camilla and Cameron)*

Talk "God's amazing gift" and final prayer

Carol 6: O come let us adore Him