

A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW006)

Crib Service


“Who is this baby?”

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CRIB SERVICE - "WHO IS THIS BABY?"

- Aim of Service:** To present the story of the birth of Jesus using puppet camels, drama and Carols – asking the question, "Who is this baby?"
- Use of Script:** This script works well as a half hour Crib service on Christmas Eve. It 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:** Two Roman soldiers, a few children who "register," Innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds 1,2,3, (plus as many as you like non-speaking shepherds), Main Angel (plus as many angels as you like who will sing a short song), Wise men 1,2,3
- Props:** Desk, sheet of paper, pen, lamp, manger, baby Jesus, gold, frankincense, myrrh.

Outline of Service:

- Welcome Welcome everyone and say an opening prayer
- Opening Carol: O come all ye faithful (v.1)
- Puppets:
- Drama: Roman soldiers and children
- Puppets:
- Carol: Little donkey
- Puppets:
- Drama: Joseph, Mary and Innkeeper
- Puppets:
- Carol: Away in a manger
- Drama: Shepherds and Angels
- Puppets:
- Carol: See Him lying on a bed of straw (Michael Perry © 1965 Michael Perry-The Jubilate Group)
- Puppets:
- Carol: We three kings
- Drama: Three Wise men
- Puppets:
- Talk: "Who is this baby?" and closing prayer
- Carol: Christmas, it's Christmas (Alan Price © 1996 Song Solutions Daybreak)

Welcome: Welcome everyone and say an opening prayer

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

Enter Cameron and Camilla. (The screen they appear behind is at the front of the church/room, set to one side so that the Nativity drama can take place "centre-stage")

Cameron: Camilla, oh do budge up, you're taking all the room. I think you must be putting on weight.....too much Turkish delight I expect....I know all about your sweet tooth.

Camilla: Oh Cameron you do speak such nonsense.....I haven't put on weight....if anything I have lost weight after our long journey.....it's just that this stable is rather small, and you my dear are rather large.

Cameron: Rather large.....what a cheek. Here I am a camel of some considerable age and distinction; having travelled for hours in the hot sun all the way from Egypt, and I end up in this tiny little hovel in some backwater called Bethlehem. There isn't even enough room for me to stretch out and rest my weary bones.

Camilla: You poor old thing....it is hard being such a superior camel.

Cameron: Quit the sarcasm Camilla, you are making me even crosser. In fact I think I am cross enough to spit.... aaaah *(makes a gargling noise as if about to spit)*

Camilla: Stop Cameron....please don't spit....I don't think the other animals in here would like you spitting.....it's pretty antisocial behaviour and we do have to keep up our reputation as superior animals don't we?

Cameron: Alright..... point made Camilla.... I won't spit.....but I am feeling so cramped here. There is hardly any room to move.

Camilla: I know.....but there is no point in complaining is there? We had to stop somewhere for our masters to rest overnight.....and this was the best place that they could find.

Cameron: I don't know what our masters were thinking about.....couldn't they see that this place is swarming with people? I have never seen it so busy since we have started doing these journeys from Egypt to Syria. *(pause)*
I suppose I won't get my tea for ages either.....they'll be so busy feeding the humans that we

Camilla: animals who do all the work won't get fed until last.....Oh do stop moaning Cameron. I am getting cross with you now. I'm sure your tea will come soon, but while we are waiting let me tell you what I heard from Humphrey while we were standing outside earlier this evening.

Cameron: Not more gossip Camilla please.

Camilla: I will choose to ignore that comment. I asked Humphrey if he knew why there were so many people in Bethlehem at the moment, and he said that the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus had called for a census to be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone has to travel to their home towns to register, which is why loads of people are flocking into Bethlehem.

Cameron: I expect the inn keepers are doing well out of it.....I doubt there will be many spare beds for the next few nights, judging by the lack of space in the stables. But isn't it typical that a census should be happening when we are passing through Bethlehem? No wonder I've got no room to stretch out.

Camilla: Oh look Cameron....through the window....you can see some of the people queuing up to be counted.

(At one side of stage there is a Roman soldier 1 sitting behind a desk with a sheet of paper in front of him and a pen. Behind him is standing another Roman soldier 2. A number of children queue up behind the desk.)

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Next. Name?

Child: Joseph *(or child's real name)*

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Sign here.

(Child takes pen and signs name on paper then moves on)

Roman soldier 2 *(standing)*: Move along now, move along now.

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Next. Name?

Child: Chloe *(or child's real name)*

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Sign here.

(Child takes pen and signs name on paper then moves on)

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Next. Name?

Child: Mark *(or child's real name)*

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Sign here

(Child takes pen and signs name on paper then moves on)

Roman soldier 2 *(standing)*: Move along now, move along now.

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Next. Name?

Child: Anna *(or child's real name)*

Roman soldier 1 *(sitting)*: Sign here.

(Child takes pen and signs name on paper then moves on. Roman soldiers get up and walk off with the desk)

Camilla: I wonder if we will see that young couple we saw earlier.

Cameron: Camilla we saw thousands of young couples. Are you thinking of any one in particular?

- Camilla: I was actually. I saw this very young woman who looked totally exhausted. She caught my eye because she looked like she was going to have a baby any day now. Her husband was looking very worried when I saw him. He was busy knocking at doors probably trying to find somewhere for them to stay the night. I hope she is alright.
- Cameron: I'm sure she is fine Camilla.....probably tucked up in a nice warm bed having had a good supper, which reminds me....I am hungry.....
- Camilla: I had a brief word with the donkey who had carried her to Bethlehem....very friendly chap and he said that they had come all the way from Nazareth.
- Cameron: Camilla....she will be fine. Someone in her condition is bound to find a place to stay.
- Carol:** Little donkey
- Camilla: You know the donkey told me something pretty strange about this woman.
- Cameron: Oh no, not donkey gossip....Camilla, really you should know better....after all you are a camel and camels do have standards.
- Camilla: I must admit what he said was a bit strange.....
- Cameron: Told you....donkey gossip. Never trust a donkey Camilla....I thought by now you had learnt that lesson.
- Camilla: He told me that this young woman (who is called Mary apparently), had a visit from an angel when she was engaged to be married. This angel told her that she had been chosen by God to have a very special baby and that the baby would be a great King whose reign would last for ever.
- Cameron: Angels.....kings....Camilla I think you need some rest dear. It is not like you to be so gullible. If this young woman, Mary, I think you called her, was carrying a baby due to be a King, don't you think she would be staying at the Ritz in Bethlehem?
- Camilla: I suppose so.....
- Cameron: Her husband would not be knocking on doors trying to find somewhere to stay. If she is carrying a baby who is going to be a King, she must be either a queen or her husband a king, and they would not be travelling to Bethlehem on a donkey. I don't know Camilla, you are going to be the laughing stock of all the camels in Bethlehem when this story gets out.
- Camilla: But Cameron the donkey seemed such a truthful chap and I don't know why, but somehow I think that what he told me is true. I think that this baby is going to be someone very special. I wonder who he is going to be. I do hope that poor woman, Mary, found somewhere to rest....I really am worried about her.
- Cameron: Well while you worry about Mary, I'm going to try and catch forty winks while I wait for my tea.....my stomach is so empty.....I've got to do something to take my mind off it.

(Camels snooze off and start to snore. Enter Innkeeper carrying a lamp and leading Mary and Joseph to the front of the church/room where the "stage" is.)

Innkeeper: Here we are....this is the stable. I'm sorry but it is the only place I have tonight.

Joseph: Thank you very much for being so helpful. I know you are very busy.

Mary: Yes, thank you for helping us out.

Innkeeper: At least you will have some privacy here. Goodnight.

Joseph and Mary: Goodnight.

(Mary and Joseph sit down centre-stage with a manger in front of them. While the camels are talking a baby finds its way into the manger!)

(Camilla "wakes up")

Camilla: Cameron, Cameron, wake up....something's going on in here.

(Cameron "wakes up")

Cameron: What.....what.....oh it's you Camilla....what is the problem? I was having such a wonderful dream.

Camilla: Cameron....I can hear noises....I think we're being burgled.

Cameron: Don't be such a silly camel.....burgled my foot.....it's probably a mouse running across the floor.

Camilla: I just heard voices Cameron.....humans, but it is all dark.

Cameron: Oh great....probably my tea at last. Let me see.....hang on a minute....what's that over there?

Camilla: Oh Cameron....it's the young couple I told you about earlier. They are here in our stable. It looks like they didn't find anywhere to stay.....poor Mary....this is no place for a pregnant woman.

Cameron: I don't think she is pregnant any more Camilla....look in the manger.

Camilla: Oh wow.....there's a baby all wrapped up in cloths.

Cameron: Bang goes my night's sleep.....I bet the baby will be crying all night.

Camilla: How wonderful.....a new born baby in our stable. But what a strange place to have a baby.

Cameron: Well that's knocked your theory on the head that this baby is going to be some sort of a king.....no king is going to be born in a smelly old stable.

Camilla: It is strange isn't it.....and yet there is such a peace in this place. I feel like I want to bow down before the manger and worship this baby.

Carol: [Away in a manger](#)

(During the singing of the carol the shepherds appear and sit on the ground somewhere visible in the church/room with their crooks and sheep)

Camilla: Oh do listen Cameron I think I can hear some beautiful singing outside – it sounds a bit like a choir.

(Angels appear from the back of the church/room making their way to the shepherds singing: “Glory, glory in the highest, Glory, glory in the highest, peace to all on earth, peace to all on earth, Glory to the Lord” – using the music “Glory” by Danny Daniels © 1987 Mercy Publishing / Thankyou Music)

Main Angel: Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide. A Saviour has been born in Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Angels: *(Sing)* Glory, glory in the highest, Glory, glory in the highest, peace to all on earth, peace to all on earth, Glory to the Lord.

(Angels exit.)

Shepherd 1: Come on. What are we waiting for? We need to get to Bethlehem.

Shepherd 2: I agree. We must go and see what has happened.

Shepherd 3: This is so exciting. Fancy simple shepherds like us being told about the birth of the Saviour.

(Shepherds move off and walk around until they reach the stable at the front of church/room.)

Camilla: I don't think I have ever heard singing like that before. It sounded almost angelic.

Cameron: Oh here we go again....you've got angels on the brain.....I think the sun has got to you.

Camilla: Hmmmp

Cameron: What's that noise now? Oh no, what have we got here.....a rabble of shepherds? Who said there was room for them in here? I hope they haven't brought any sheep with them. Sheep are such silly creatures.

Camilla: You are so rude Cameron....look, they seem to have come to see the baby. They are kneeling by the manger. You know Cameron there is definitely something very special about this baby. I wonder who this baby is?

Carol : [See Him lying on a bed of straw](#)

Camilla: Cameron....I'm so excited...

Cameron: Here we go.....

Camilla: I was right about the angelic singing. Horace the ox in the corner over there said that he saw the sky filled with angels when I heard the singing. It was angels.

Cameron: OK.....so there was an angelic choir. Happy now?

- Camilla: But don't you see Cameron? This baby must be special. How many babies do you know that have an angelic choir announcing their birth? And while I'm on the subject of angels, how many mothers are told by an angel that they are going to have a baby? I wonder who this baby is?
- Cameron: Well there is definitely something sniffy going on.
- Camilla: And for once dear it isn't you.
- Cameron: I am deeply wounded. I can't help having smelly feet.
Oh no....what's the kerfuffle outside now....is there no rest for a poor old camel?
- Camilla: I think I can hear Monty's snort....I'd recognise that camel's sound a mile off.
- Cameron: What is Monty doing here? Last I knew....he was in Persia. Well if Monty is here, Angus, and Charlie must be too.....oh good we can have a spitting contest.
- Camilla: I don't think so Cameron. I'm going to go and find out what's going on.

Carol: [We three kings](#)

(During the Carol, three Wise men carrying gold, frankincense and myrrh enter from the back of church / room and make their way to the front of the church / room.)

Wise man 1: This looks like the place where the new king has been born.

Wise man 2: The star has definitely stopped here.

Wise man 3: Come on. Let us go in and worship him.

(Wise men enter stable, present their gifts and worship at the manger.)

- Camilla: Cameron, I have been speaking with Monty and he has said that they have been following a star for weeks. Apparently this star showed their masters that a new king will be born and they have come to worship him.
- Cameron: But Camilla, kings aren't born in stables are they? They are born in palaces....I think Monty must have misheard his master....you know he can be rather deaf at times.
- Camilla: But look Cameron.....those men are kneeling down and worshipping the baby in the manger. Who on earth is this baby that people would worship him?
- Cameron: Perhaps he is going to be a very important man.
- Camilla: No, people don't worship important men....especially not babies.
- Cameron: OK....perhaps he is going to be a great King.
- Camilla: Perhaps.....but I have a feeling in my humps that this baby is more important than a king.

Cameron: Come on Camilla.....who could be more important than a King.....only God himself? And you are not going to tell me that God is going to be born as a baby in a smelly old stable are you?

Camilla: I don't know Cameron.....but I am wondering who this baby really is, aren't you?

Exit Camilla and Cameron

Talk: "Who is this baby?"
(You might want to follow the script with a very short talk explaining who the baby is and extend an invitation to Jesus' "birthday celebrations" in church on Christmas morning)

Closing Prayer

Carol [Christmas, it's Christmas](#)