

A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW017)

Crib Service

“The Greatest Story in History”

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CRIB SERVICE - "THE GREATEST STORY IN HISTORY"

Aim of Service:	To present the story of the birth of Jesus, the greatest story in history, using drama and carols.
Use of Script:	The service length is half an hour and can be used on Christmas Eve. It contains the words for the drama and ideas of carols to sing. Children, teenagers and adults can all take part.
Main themes:	Birth of Jesus
Biblical references:	Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
Actors:	Four Narrators, God, Girl, Boy, Two offstage voices, Mary, Angel, Joseph, Official, Two people, Three Innkeepers, Three Shepherds, Three Wise Men.
Props:	Glow sticks ¹ (that are given to every person as they arrive), an apple, washing up bowl, clothes, scroll, gold, frankincense, myrrh, some sort of stable "backdrop" at the front of church, manger, baby Jesus. A real donkey if possible!!
Sound effects etc:	"He chose the shepherds" ² song (to be projected on a screen) and a lion roar ³ sound effect. Pictures for projection - Appendix 1

Outline of Service:

As people arrive:	Give each person a glow stick and tell them not to activate it yet!
Welcome	
Carol 1:	<u>O come all ye faithful</u> (v.1 + chorus)
Drama Act 1:	"In the beginning"
Carol 2:	<u>O little town of Bethlehem</u> (v.1,3)
Drama Act 2:	"The birth of Jesus is foretold"
Carol 3:	<u>When the angel came to Mary</u> (v.1,2)
Drama Act 3:	"The birth of Jesus"
Carol 4:	<u>Away in a manger</u>
DVD:	<i>"He chose the shepherds"</i> (Friends and Heroes)
Drama Act 4:	"The shepherds find Jesus"
Carol 5:	<u>While shepherds watched their flocks by night</u> (v.1-4)
Drama Act 5:	"The Magi find Jesus"
Carol 6:	<u>We three kings</u> (v.1)
Drama Act 6:	"Jesus – Saviour and Lord"
Prayer	
Carol 7:	<u>Christmas, it's Christmas</u> (Alan Price © 1996 Song Solutions Daybreak)

¹ Glow sticks can be purchased from ebay at www.ebay.co.uk by putting "glow sticks" into the search bar.

² "He chose the shepherds" is a "Friends and Heroes" song and can be found on You Tube at www.youtube.com and by putting "He chose the shepherds" into the search bar.

³ A lion roar sound effect can be found on You Tube by putting "Lion roar sound effect" into the search bar.

(Ideally the Narrators are children/teenagers and they speak from the pulpit if you have one.)

WELCOME

Narrator 1: Good evening and welcome to *(Name of your church)*.

Narrator 2: It is great to see you all here this evening,

Narrator 1: as we re-tell the most important story ever told.

Narrator 2: It is God's story,

Narrator 1: and it is all about His love for you,

Narrator 2: and His love for me.

Narrator 1: Before we begin, please could you make sure that your mobile phone is switched off,

Narrator 2: even if it plays angel chimes....

Narrator 1: and please could you also keep the centre aisle clear,

Narrator 2: as we have some special visitors coming into the church tonight.

Narrator 1: Would you stand now for our first carol.

Carol 1: O come all ye faithful (v.1 + chorus)

ACT 1: "In the Beginning"

(All the lights go down to almost complete darkness. The Narrators read use torches)

Narrator 3: Our story begins a long long time ago, right at the very beginning of time. *(Project black screen)*

Narrator 4: The Bible tells us that the earth had no form or life.....but then God said:

Narrator 3: Let there be light....

Narrator 4: And light started shining. *(Project picture 1)*

Narrator 3: If you would all like to take your glow sticks, and break them and shake them.....we will see light appearing!

(PAUSE as people light their glow-sticks and as other lights in the church come on)

Narrator 4: Not only did God make light appear, but he separated land from the sea. *(Project picture 2)*

Narrator 3: He filled the earth with plants, *(Project picture 3)*

Narrator 4: animals *(Project picture 4)* and birds. *(Project picture 5)*

Narrator 3: He filled the sea with fish, (*Project picture 6*)

Narrator 4: and the heavens with planets and stars. (*Project picture 7*)

Narrator 3: Everything that God made was good,

Narrator 4: but the very best part of God's creation was(PAUSE for effect)

Narrator 3: the majestic lion.... (*sound effect of lion*) (*Project picture 8*)

Narrator 4: No it wasn't.

Narrator 3: I know.....only joking....the very best part of God's creation was...

Narrator 4: You and... (*Project picture 9*)

Narrator 3: Me.

Narrator 4: Men and women, boys and girls.....made in God's image,

Narrator 3: and made for a special friendship with God.

(Enter boy and girl holding hands and "dancing" up the aisle". When they reach the front of church "God" is waiting for them (dressed in white). God takes the hands of the children.)

Narrator 4: God loved the first people he had made very much and he delighted in them.

Narrator 3: He placed them in a beautiful garden and walked with them every day. Everyone was really happy.

(God walks with the children to one side and then He exits, leaving the children behind)

Narrator 3: But one day everything went wrong.

Narrator 4: Man and woman chose to disobey God and do something that He had told them not to do.

(Girl walks over and reaches up to "pick" the apple (which has been left somewhere high eg the pulpit at the front of the church). She takes a bite of the apple and then passes it to the boy who also takes a bite. They act scared)

(God shouts off stage)

God: Adam.....Adam....where are you?

(Girl and boy run off and hide)

(Enter God)

God: Adam.....Adam....where are you? What have you done?

(Holds head in hands in agony and then exits)

Narrator 3: From that moment the perfect relationship of love that man and woman had enjoyed with God was broken,

Narrator 4: and there was nothing that man and woman could do to put it right again.

Narrator 3: As years went on and more and more people filled the earth, people continued to choose to disobey God and live their lives rejecting him.

Narrator 4: As a result terrible things started to happen.

(Voices 1 and 2 are offstage voices and need microphones)

Voice 1: Wars, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 2: Murders, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 1: Hatred, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 2: Death, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 1: Violence, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 2: Sickness, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 1: Poverty, *(Project picture 5)*

Voice 2: Injustice. *(Project picture 5)*

Narrator 3: God's heart of love broke when he saw the terrible mess humans had got themselves into.

Narrator 4: He kept reaching out to people with His love,

Narrator 3: but time and again his love was rejected.

Narrator 4: Something very special was needed to show the world His love once again.

Narrator 3: Something very special was needed to bring people back into relationship with God once again.....

Narrator 4: and that something special was a tiny baby,

Narrator 3: God's Son.....Jesus,

Narrator 4: whose coming would change the world.

Carol 2: [O little town of Bethlehem \(v.1,3\)](#)

ACT 2: "The birth of Jesus is foretold"

(A table is moved into place at the front of church for Mary to put her washing bowl on)

Narrator 1: One day in a town called Nazareth, in the district of Galilee, a young woman called Mary was going about her daily life.

(Enter Mary carrying washing bowl + clothes. She mimes washing the clothes)

Mary: I must be the happiest girl in Nazareth....being engaged to Joseph. He is such a good man. I can barely wait until the wedding....it's not long now.

(Enter Angel Gabriel who walks towards Mary)

Angel: Greetings Mary, you who are highly favoured. The Lord is with you.

Mary: *(Acting afraid)* What do you mean?

Angel: Don't be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God. You are going to have a Son and you are to give him the name Jesus. Jesus will be great and He will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign as King and His kingdom will have no end.

Mary: How will this be? I am not even married yet.

Angel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God.

Mary: *(kneeling down)* I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.

(Exit angel and Mary)

Narrator 2: A few months passed and before long Mary knew that she was pregnant. One day she was talking with Joseph.

(Enter Mary and Joseph to stand at the front of church)

Joseph: How are you Mary? You seem very tired these days.

Mary: Joseph I have something to tell you.

Joseph: Go on.

Mary: I am expecting a baby.

Joseph: What?

Mary: Please don't get cross. I need to explain.

Joseph: You certainly do.

Mary: An angel from God came and told me that God was giving me a special baby through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is going to be a very special King.

Joseph: Oh Mary....how can I believe this? This is terrible news. What will everyone in Nazareth think of this? They won't believe all this nonsense about angels.

Mary: I'm sorry Joseph..... but it is the truth.

Joseph: I wish I could believe you. Please leave me alone now Mary.....I need to think.

(Exit Mary sadly. Joseph stands with his head in his hands)

Narrator 1: Joseph was very upset. He was a righteous man and he did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace, so he made a decision.

Joseph: The only thing I can do is divorce Mary quietly.....that's what I will do. Now I need some rest.

(Joseph lies down on the floor)

Angel: *(Speaking through an off stage microphone)*

Joseph Son of David. Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Narrator 2: When Joseph woke up he did what the angel had commanded him.

Joseph: *(gets up and shouts)*

Mary, Mary, I believe you....the angel has spoken to me too.

(Exit Joseph)

Carol 3: When the angel came to Mary (v.1,2)

(During the carol the table is removed. A simple stable or stable backdrop is set up at the front of the church with a couple of chairs for Joseph and Mary to sit on. Under Mary's chair is baby Jesus wrapped up in cloths and in front of the chairs is a manger)

ACT 3: "The birth of Jesus"

(Enter Official carrying a scroll. They speak from the pulpit)

Official: Hear ye, hear ye, a message from Caesar.
Hear ye, hear ye, a message from Caesar.
You lot listen up!
All of you people need to be counted.
Get ready quickly and go to your own towns to register.
Hear ye, hear ye, a message from Caesar.

(Person 1 stands up from where they have been sitting and shouts out)

Person 1: But I live forty five miles away from my home town. It will take me days to get there and who is going to look after my business while I am away?

Official: Tough....you've heard what Caesar wants. And what Caesar wants, Caesar gets!

(Person 2 stands up from where they have been sitting in another part of the church and shouts out)

Person 2: It's ridiculous. What a waste of our time, as if we haven't got better things to do.

Official: Now then, there will be no rebellions in this part of Galilee thank you very much. Pack up your belongings and get moving. It's orders..... orders from the top and you will obey.

(Exit official from pulpit walking away pompously. Person 1 and Person 2 sit down again)

Narrator 3: So Joseph and Mary packed up their belongings and made their way from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem, the town of King David.

Narrator 4: They went to Bethlehem to register as Joseph was a descendant of King David.

Narrator 3: When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem they found the town was very busy as many people had come to register.

(Enter Mary and Joseph with live donkey (if appropriate!) from the back of the church. They make their way slowly up the nave towards the chancel, with Joseph looking for somewhere to stay)

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

(Innkeeper 1 stands up from where they have been sitting and says)

Innkeeper 1: I'm sorry mate my inn is already full.

(Innkeeper 1 sits down. Innkeeper 2 stands up from where they have been sitting and says)

Innkeeper 2: You've arrived a bit late. My inn is absolutely overflowing with people.

(Innkeeper 2 sits down)

Joseph: Does no inn have a spare room?

(Innkeeper 3 appears at the front of church)

Innkeeper: 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 are staying, so it is a bit smelly.

Joseph: We're desperate....we'll take it. Thank you very much.

(Mary and Joseph arrive at the "stable" at the front of the church and sit down. The donkey turns round and is led back out of the church)

Narrator 3: That night Mary's baby was born and they gave him the name Jesus.

(Mary picks up baby and places into the manger)

Narrator 4: She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

Carol 4: [Away in a manger \(v.1-3\)](#)

Narrator 3: Please sit down.

DVD song: *"He chose the shepherds"*

ACT 4: “The shepherds find Jesus”

(Enter shepherds loudly from the back and they gather in the centre of the church talking loudly)

Shepherd 1: I’ve never seen anything like it in all my life.

Shepherd 2: I was petrified.

Shepherd 3: Nothing new there eh Amos?

Shepherd 2: I hope our sheep will be alright out there on their own.

Shepherd 1: Stop fretting Amos....we have to find this baby that the angel told us about.

Shepherd 2: But what about Limpy?

Shepherd 3: Limpy will be fine....

(Person 1 stands up from where they have been sitting and shouts out)

Person 1: Would you please be quiet.....some of us are trying to get some sleep around here.

Shepherd 1: But we’ve seen angels.

Shepherd 2: Hundreds and hundreds of them! I was so frightened.

Shepherd 3: They’ve told us that a Saviour has been born for us.....here in Bethlehem.

Shepherd 1: Do you know where we might find a new-born baby?

(Person 2 stands up from where they have been sitting and says)

Person 2: Well I did see a very pregnant woman being shown into an outhouse over there earlier this evening. Why don’t you go and take a look?

Shepherd 3: Thank you.....we will.

(Shepherds walk towards the front where Mary and Joseph are)

Shepherd 1: Oh wow....it is true.

Shepherd 2: A baby has been born.

Shepherd 3: and he is wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Shepherd 1: The Saviour of the World has come and we have seen him.

(Shepherds bow before the crib)

Carol 5: While shepherds watched (v.1-4)

ACT 5: “The Magi find Jesus”*(The shepherds get up)*

Shepherd 1: Well we can't keep this good news to ourselves now can we? Come on Amos, Come on Benji....let's go and tell everyone about the Saviour who has been born for us here in Bethlehem.

Shepherd 2: And check on Limpy!

(Shepherds exit down the centre aisle)

Narrator 1: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem Magi from the East came to Jerusalem.

Narrator 2: They asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.

Narrator 1: Now King Herod was not at all happy about this. A new king born... what a threat to him.....he didn't want that at all.

Narrator 2: He gathered together the chief priests and the teachers of the law to find out what this was all about.

Narrator 1: They told him that a very long time ago a prophet had said that a very special king, God's king, would be born in Bethlehem.

Narrator 2: So King Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem to look for the new-born King. He told them to come and report back to him when they had found the baby so that he could destroy him.

(Enter the three wise men from the back of the church. They carry gold, frankincense and myrrh and as they walk to the stable they speak their words loudly)

Wise man 1: Oh look what I see.

Wise man 2: Yes I can see it too.

Wise man 3: I thought we had lost that star, but there it is again.

Wise man 1: Come on. The star will lead us to the new-born king.

Carol 6: [We three Kings \(v.1\)](#)

*(During the carol the three wise men move to the crib and lay down their gifts and stay kneeling by the crib)***ACT 6: “Jesus – Saviour and Lord”**

Narrator 3: Baby Jesus grew up to become a man, living a perfect and sinless life.

Narrator 4: When he was thirty years old, Jesus started to teach people about how much God loves them.

Narrator 3: One of the ways Jesus showed the people God's love was by healing their diseases and sicknesses

- Narrator 4: And then Jesus showed people the full extent of God's love
- Narrator 3: Although He had done nothing wrong, Jesus was arrested and nailed to a cross.
- Narrator 4: As he hung there Jesus prayed, "*Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*" and then he died.
- Narrator 3: The Bible tells us that Jesus hung on the cross to deal with all the wrong things we have done, which separate us from Father God.
- Narrator 4: But that isn't the end of the story.
- Narrator 3: Three days later, God raised Jesus to life and He is living today with His father in heaven, where He is reigning as King.
- Narrator 4: If we come to Jesus, trusting in what He has done for us on the cross, our Heavenly Father is willing to forgive all the wrong things that we have done in our lives and the ways that we have rejected Him.
- Narrator 3: Not only that, but He welcomes us back into His family where we can know Him as our Father.
- Narrator 4: This is the good news of Christmas.
- Narrator 3: Forgiveness and new life are freely available for everyone who believes in Jesus.
- Narrator 4: This is God's story
- Narrator 3: The most important story ever told.
- Narrators 3& 4: Happy Christmas!
- Prayer [Simple prayer of blessing led by the Minister](#)
- Carol 7: [Christmas, it's Christmas](#)

Appendix 1 – Pictures for Projection

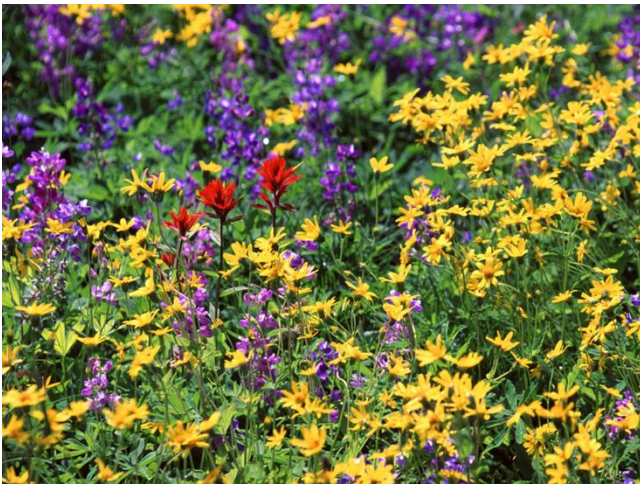
Picture 1 – Light started shining



Picture 2 – He separated land from the sea



Picture 3 – He filled the earth with plants



Picture 4 – animals



Picture 5 – and birds



Picture 6 – He filled the sea with fish



Picture 7 – and the heavens with planets and stars



Picture 8 – the majestic lion



Picture 9 – you and me



Picture 10 – wars



Picture 11 – murders



Picture 12 – hatred



Picture 13 – death



Picture 14 – violence



Picture 15 – sickness



Picture 16 – poverty



Picture 17 – injustice

