Crib service

This script is designed to be narrated from the front with costumed children joining in a tableau as the story progresses. If you have confident children playing the angel, Mary, Joseph and the Innkeeper, then they can say their lines themselves!

***Silent night, verse 1***

MARY AND THE ANGEL STAND AT THE FRONT

One day, in a little town called Nazareth, a girl called Mary was visited by an angel.

***Angel: Don’t be afraid, Mary! I have good news! God is very pleased with you and he wants you to do a special job. You will have a baby and will name him Jesus. He will be a great king and his kingdom will last forever.***

Mary was confused. How was she going to have a baby when she wasn’t even married yet?

The angel said:

***Angel: The Holy Spirit will be with you and the baby will be God’s son.***

Mary was amazed, but she really wanted to do what God wanted. Mary took a deep breath and said yes to God.

JOSEPH COMES TO STAND AT THE FRONT

The angel also visited Joseph, who Mary was engaged to marry. The angel told Joseph that Mary would have a baby and that the baby would be God’s son. Just like Mary, Joseph was amazed at what the angel told him and he knew he must look after Mary and the special baby that was coming.

THE ANGEL LEAVES. MARY AND JOSEPH STAY AT THE FRONT.

The Roman emperor decided that he needed to know how many people lived in Mary and Joseph’s country. Everyone had to go back to their home town to put their names on a list. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.

MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL DOWN THE AISLE AND BACK AGAIN

***Go, Go to Bethlehem (Row, row, row your boat)***

***Go, go to Bethlehem***

***Safely on your way***

***Off you go, no time to waste***

***Must find somewhere to stay***

***Go, go to Bethlehem***

***Safely on your way***

***Off you go, no time to waste***

***Must find somewhere to stay***

MARY AND JOSEPH ARRIVE BACK AT THE FRONT. IF THERE ARE ANY INNKEEPERS, BRING THEM TO THE FRONT NOW

When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, the town was packed with people. There were people everywhere! It was hard to walk down the street without bumping into someone. Everyone had come home. Mary and Joseph needed to find somewhere to stay for the night. Mary was very tired and she knew that she would have her baby very soon.

Mary and Joseph searched everywhere for a room. They knocked on door after door, but nowhere had any space.

EVERYONE KNOCKS ON PEWS

***No room here (Wheels on the bus)***

***The innkeepers say there’s no room here, no room here, no room here***

***The innkeepers say there’s no room here***

***All Night long***

***The innkeepers say we’re all booked up, all booked up, all booked up***

***The innkeepers say we’re all booked up***

***All night long***

***The innkeepers say there’s no room here, no room here, no room here***

***The innkeepers say there’s no room here***

***All Night long***

ONE INNKEEPER STAYS WITH MARY AND JOSEPH

Mary and Joseph were so tired!

They had one more place to try. Please let there be room here, they thought.

Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and waited.

After a long while, the door creaked open.

***Mary: Do you have any room for us to stay here tonight? It’s dark and cold and my baby will be coming very soon.***

***Innkeeper: No room here!***

Said the innkeeper and closed the door

Mary and Joseph knocked on the door again.

After a long while, the door creaked open.

***Joseph: Is there not even a tiny space we can squeeze into until the morning? We’re so tired!***

The innkeeper felt sorry for Mary and Joseph and thought for a moment.

***Innkeeper: There’s a tiny bit of space where my animals sleep. It’s crowded and smelly but it’s warm. If you don’t mind that, then you’re welcome to stay there.***

Mary and Joseph smiled with relief and followed the Innkeeper.

MARY AND JOSEPH SIT DOWN WITH A MANGER IN FRONT OF THEM. ANIMALS COME AND GATHER ROUND THEM.

***The stable had some animals (Old Macdonald)***

Children can put their own animal noise in the blank spaces.

***The stable had some animals, making so much noise***

***They loved to grunt and neigh and cluck, making so much noise***

***With a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here and a\_\_\_\_\_there***

***Here a\_\_\_\_ there a \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere a \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_***

***The stable had some animals making so much noise***

Later that night, the time came for Mary to have her baby. The animals stood by and watched in wonder as Mary laid the special baby in the manger where they usually found their food.

MARY PUTS JESUS IN THE MANGER

Mary and Joseph smiled at each other because they knew what God had said. This baby was going to be an amazing king and, just as the angel told them, they called him Jesus.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS COME AND STAND TO THE LEFT OF THE SCENE

While Mary and Joseph were busy tucking Jesus into the manger in Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep on the hillside, just a little bit outside of the town.

All of a sudden they were almost blinded by an incredibly bright light. They saw a huge group of angels singing in the sky above them. The shepherds were afraid, but they knew that something amazing must be happening so they listened as the angels sang about peace and glory to God. The angels had a special message for the shepherds. They told them to go and find the baby lying in a manger, who would be king of the whole world.

***Shepherds watching (London’s burning)***

***Shepherds watching. Shepherds watching***

***Get a big fright, get a big fright***

***See the angels, see the angels***

***Shining so bright, shining so bright***

***There’s a new king, there’s a new king***

***Go and find him, go and find him,***

***Find the baby, find the baby***

***And bow down and bow down***

ANYONE IN A STAR COSTUME COMES FORWARD AND STANDS AT THE BACK OF THE STABLE SCENE.

In a distant land, some wise people saw a bright star in the sky and knew that it was something very special. All of their books and wise learning couldn’t tell them what the star meant, so they got ready for a long journey and set off to find out for themselves.

THE WISE PEOPLE COME AND STAND TO THE RIGHT OF THE SCENE.

***Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star***

***Twinkle Twinkle little star***

***How we wonder what you are***

***Up above the world so high***

***Like a diamond in the sky***

***Twinkle Twinkle Little star***

***How we wonder what you are***

***Twinkle Twinkle, Little star***

***We have come so very far***

***Travelling by day and night***

***Following the star so bright***

***Twinkle, Twinkle, Little star***

***We have come so very far.***

The wise people followed the star for many days. Eventually the star stopped over a little house in Bethlehem and the wise people knew that this must be where they would find what they were looking for. The wise people came in and worshipped the baby, who they knew would one day be a great king and the saviour of the whole world. They gave him special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

***Away in a manger, verse 1***

Prayer and blessing