



## **BETHLEHEM'S LAMB**

### **2025 Christmas Play**

Written by

J Adams

Based on the account of Jesus' birth in Luke and Matthew. The paraphrasing of scripture comes from the paraphrased version of the Bible, The Message, by Eugene Peterson. Other scripture passages include excerpts from Hebrews 11 and Isaiah 53:6.

Featured songs include -

"O' Little Town of Bethlehem" - Traditional Hymn

"Baby Jesus We Love You"-- By Brentwood Kids

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"- Traditional Hymn

"We will find him" By Michael Card

"My deliverer is coming," Rick Elias

"Mary Had a Little Lamb" Rod Atkins and Rose Falcon

Close with "Away in a manger" with the audience.

Find the practice playlist at:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeMUEP-05jajpomZ5tCQKNFr10sfyayXz&si=cmIR-GJRkWqlj0lU>

## SCENE ONE- NIGHT- BETHLEHEM

The stage is dark. One light opens onto the Inn Keepers. There are two wooden doors behind them (Two sets of room dividers- one side looks like wooden doors. The back of one door looks like the temple.) They are closed, but when they are opened, they will reveal the nativity scene.

### NARRATOR

At the time when Quirinius was governor of Syria, Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. Everyone had to go to his own ancestral hometown. Since Joseph was a decedent of David, he had to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah. He went with Mary, his fiance, who was pregnant. But, they weren't the only ones headed to Bethlehem!

### TRAVELER 1

Are we in Bethlehem yet?

### TRAVELERS

Almost!

### TRAVELER 1

Are we there yet?

### TRAVELERS

Yes!

### TRAVELER 1

Are we th... Oh!

### INN KEEPER 1

Hello weary travelers! Welcome to the city of David, home of Israel's most honored king. I hope you brought your own tent.

### INN KEEPER 2

It's full here, and you won't find a place to lay your head, water your camels, or wet your whistle.

## INN KEEPER 3

In fact I just saw a man and his  
wife head into the stable to have a  
baby. I'm pretty sure that wasn't  
in their birth plan!

Lights go down, Travelers enter stage left, and exit stage  
right. The light opens up on the angels. They come out and  
sing the first verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem.

## ANGELS

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the  
years Are met in thee tonight

The lights go down again, and there is a sound effect of a  
small baby's cry. The doors are opened and rolled to the  
side. The wooden front are the only side able to be seen by  
the audience. The doors reveal Mary, Joseph and Jesus. More  
stage lights come on and reveal more of the scene.

## NARRATOR

While Mary and Joseph were in  
Bethlehem, the time came for her to  
give birth. She gave birth to a  
son, her firstborn. She wrapped him  
in a blanket and laid him in a  
manger, because there was no room  
in the Inn.

Shepherds and sheep come running in.

## SHEPHERD 1

Angels just told us to find you!  
The Savior! Our Deliverer! Our  
Messiah is here!

## SHEPHERD 2

Do you know how long we have been  
waiting for this baby to get here?

## SHEPHERD 3

For-evvvvv-errrrrr!

## SHEPHERD 4

Our hopes and fears of all the  
years are met in this baby tonight!

**"Baby Jesus we love you (what do the cows in the manger say?)** Sheep and shepherds exit down the center of the audience the same way they came. Mary and Joseph exit stage right. The stage gets rearranged. One of the doors is turned around to reveal pillars and a back drop that looks like the temple.

NARRATOR

Mary kept all these things to  
herself, holding them dear, deep  
within her heart.

ANGELS

For Christ is born of Mary and  
gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels  
keep their watch of wond'ring love,  
O morning stars together proclaim  
the Holy birth, and praises sing to  
God our King and peace on men to  
earth.

SCENE TWO- THE TEMPLE WITH ANNA AND SIMEON

Lights are down while the narrator speaks. The angels come out and sing stage left, when lights come up. Mary and Joseph and the baby enter stage right while angels are singing.

NARRATOR

When the eighth day arrived, the  
day of circumcision, the child was  
named Jesus, the name given by the  
angel.  
Then when the days stipulated by  
Moses for purification were  
complete, they took him up to  
Jerusalem to offer him to God as  
commanded in God's Law.

Lights come up to reveal the Holy Family.

MARY

Joseph did you pack the pigeons?

JOSEPH

Yes, did you pack the stroller and  
the diaper bag?

MARY

Well, we've got the baby, I'm not  
sure about anything else!

## JOSEPH

Can I just say that all these road trips we've been taking are kind of crazy! A road trip, and then you give birth in a stable. Just when you start recovering from the birth- bam! Road trip to Jerusalem! I can't wait to be back home in Nazareth!

## MARY

God never said that giving birth to the Savior of the World would be easy!

## NARRATOR

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man and women who had the Holy Spirit resting on them. The man was Simeon, he lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. Anna the prophetess was also there, She was a very old woman. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fasting and prayers.

Simeon enters stage left, he is old and looking all around him, then he spots the Holy Family and starts waving, and goes straight up to them.

## SIMEON

You little one, are the one we have been waiting for!

Simeon takes the baby into his arms.

## SIMEON

God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see: A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, glory for your people Israel.

Mary and Joseph look surprised and speechless!

Anna is walking by while Simeon is praying, she hears Simeon's prayer and stops! She looks over Simeon's shoulder and gets very excited when she sees the baby!

SIMEON

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

(NIV)

ANNA

He's here! The long awaited deliverer, redeemer, messiah!

Anna sings the next verse of "O'Little Town of Bethlehem." She sings it joyfully.

ANNA

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, But in  
this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him  
still, The dear Christ enters in.

After her song Anna speaks to the audience and pretends to speak to others as she exits stage left.

ANNA

He's here! The Savior of the world,  
the long awaited Messiah, our  
Deliverer has come!

### SCENE THREE - HEBREWS 11

Scene is changed as narrator speaks. A manger with a red rope tied to it is placed on stage right. Characters from Hebrew 11 are lined up and ready to come in. The first character holds the rope out from stage left. Children find their place on the rope from left to right.

NARRATOR

Anna and Simeon represented the generations of people who had been waiting for their deliver to come. Generations waited. not losing hope, living a life of faith.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

They continued to seek God's light in a dark land. Their faith pulled them through time, up to this moment.

Hebrews 11 tells us,  
"It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him."

NOAH

God it's me Noah, by faith I will build a ship in the middle of dry land. You have warned me about something I can't see, but I will do what I am told.

NARRATOR

Through faith Noah's family was saved.

SARAH

It's me Sarah, I believe that even though I am an old woman, The One who made the promise to me will do what He said. I will give birth to a son.

NARRATOR

Sarah bore Isaac, a son to Abraham in her old age. It was the son that God used to build a nation. By faith, Abraham, at the time of testing, offered Isaac back to God. Acting in faith, he was as ready to give his one and only son back to God. Abraham figured that if God wanted to, he could raise the dead. In a sense, that's what happened when he received Isaac back, alive from off the altar.

ABRAHAM

God, It's me Abraham, I trust you! You are more powerful than death.

NARRATOR

By an act of faith, Joseph, while dying, prophesied the exodus of Israel, and made arrangements for his own burial.

JOSHEPH SON OF JACOB  
It's me Joseph, I trust you God.

NARRATOR  
By an act of faith, Moses' parents hid him away for three months after his birth. They saw the child's beauty, and they braved the king's decree, to kill all the male children.

MOSES' MOTHER  
God, I know you have given me this baby to protect, and you will help me do it.

Moses' mother is carrying a baby doll or real baby.

NARRATOR  
By faith, Moses, when grown, refused the privileges of the Egyptian royal house. He chose a hard life with God's people rather than an opportunistic soft life of sin with the oppressors.

MOSES  
God, it's me Moses, I value suffering in the Messiah's camp far greater than Egyptian wealth. I am looking ahead, anticipating your promised One. Ransom captive Israel!

**Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

Children all exit stage right.

#### SCENE FOUR- HEROD AND THE WISE MEN/EASTERN SCHOLARS

The right side of the stage is set up to be Mary and Joseph's home. The left side has a throne for King Herod. The wise men enter from in the audience. A child dressed as a star is leading the way. The star hides after the wise men approach Herod on the throne.

NARRATOR  
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village -a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East.



WISE MAN/EASTERN SCHOLAR 1

"Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

NARRATOR

When word of their inquiry got to Herod the King, he was terrified—Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religious scholars.

HEROD

A new king? that's not me? We'll see about that! Hey my smart people — get over here and tell me where this Messiah is supposed to be born?

Scholars walk over when Herod calls them.

HEROD'S SCHOLAR

Um... Let me check, according to the scrolls, the prophet Micah says:

"It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will lead my people, my Israel, like a shepherd leads his sheep."

HEROD

Hey people from the East— I found out where the child is supposed to be born. According to my assistants, the child you seek will be found in Bethlehem. Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in... worship...I can't wait to get my hands on him.

EASTERN SCHOLAR/WISEMAN 2

What was that?

HEROD

I can't wait to worship him, what did you think I said?

The Wise men/Eastern Scholars shrug their shoulders and exit stage right while the narrator starts to talk. The star comes out of hiding.

NARRATOR

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child.

THE STAR

Come on you guys! The Messiah is this way!

**Sing "We will find him" by Michael Card.**

The star comes up on the stage and finds a spot behind Mary who is holding Jesus. There is the sound of a door bell. The Wise men are waiting out front for Joseph to let them in.

MARY

Who is it Joseph?

Joseph opens the door, he looks confused.

JOSEPH

I don't know. Can I help you?

EASTERN SCHOLAR/WISE MAN 1

Look that lady is holding a baby!  
We made it! We are in the right place!

EASTERN SCHOLAR/WISEMAN 2

We arrived at the right time!

EASTERN SCHOLAR/WISE MAN 3

Here is the newborn King of the Jews!

JOSEPH

What is going on?!

EASTER SCHOLAR/ WISE MAN 1

We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled the birth of the king of the Jews. We're on pilgrimage to find him and worship him.

EASTERN SCHOLAR/ WISEMAN 2  
We brought presents!!!!

MARY  
Oh wow, these are very unusual, and  
um, special, thank you!

EASTERN SCHOLAR/ WISEMAN 2  
My wife said I should bring diapers  
and a casserole, but who doesn't  
love Frankincense!

#### SCENE FIVE- ESCAPE TO EGYPT

EASTERN SCHOLAR/WISEMEN 3  
Well, its time to head back to our  
lands. We were warned in our dreams  
not to go back to report to Herod.

JOSEPH  
Bye! Thanks for coming. (Sound  
affect of door closing.) Well, that  
was such a nice visit. It sure  
would be good to relax for a bit.

Joseph lays down to take a nap. Or at least folds his arms  
and starts to snore.

HEROD  
I'm surprised those scholars from  
the east haven't come back yet.  
Wait a minute...they aren't coming  
back!! They tricked me!

NARRATOR  
When Herod realized he was tricked  
he was angry.

HEROD  
I am so angry!!!!

ANGEL MESSENGER  
Get up. Take the child and his  
mother and flee to Egypt. Stay  
until further notice. Herod is on  
the hunt for this child, and wants  
to kill him.

JOSEPH  
Mary! Pack your bags! We're going  
on another road trip!

## NARRATOR

Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother under cover of darkness. They were out of town and well on their way by daylight. They lived in Egypt until Herod's death. This Egyptian exile fulfilled what Hosea had preached: "I called my son out of Egypt."

**Sing My Deliver is coming.**

## SCENE SIX- CLOSING

## NARRATOR

Jesus and his family were kept safe from the wrath of the evil king. Jesus grew up in strength and wisdom. He waited until His Father gave him the go ahead to put God's plan into action!

## ANGELS

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

The entire cast begins to gather on stage, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus at the center.

## TOWNSPERSON 1

Jesus grew in strength and wisdom.  
He was both ordinary and extraordinary.

## TOWNSPERSON 2

Just as Isaiah prophesied, Jesus, the servant, grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.

## TOWNSPERSON 3

"One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was our pains he carried—our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us."

## TOWNSPERSON 3

Jesus didn't follow the rules that the religious leaders had made up. He only followed his Father. The religious leaders condemned him and criticized him.

## TOWNSPERSON 4

Isaiah foretold, "We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed."

## TOWNSPERSON 5

"We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing and gone our own way. God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him."

The entire cast assembles on the stage to sing the closing songs. **"Mary Had a Little Lamb" Rod Atkins and Rose Falcon**

## NARRATOR

Jesus came to deliver us all from the terrible weight of sin. Instead of sacrificing lambs to have our sin's forgiven. God's plan was for Jesus to take the place of those lambs, once and for all. By doing this He opened the gates of heaven to the world. Now, Jesus can lead us as our shepherd, rescued and kept safe by Him.

Invite the Audience to sing **Away in a Manger** led by the angels, and the tiny ones at the front, to close out the program.

The End