

COME TO THE MANGER

(Play by the Younger School Children --Christmas 1973)

SONG: "Lovely is the Dark blue sky .." verses 1 and 2.

Setting: Simple stable in right hand corner with the ox and ass already there - eating hay.

Ox: This is a cold and bare stable and all we have is a bit of dry hay to eat.

Ass: But look how beautifully the stars shine. Sh I heard something -- (lifts its long ears to hear angels coming to prepare stable.)

Ox can you see them? Are they coming to this stable?

OX: I don't know!

Ass: (looks) Oh, yes, they are! (excited)

SONG: "Come every angel" verses 1, 2 and 4.

(Angels come into stable and begin to prepare the manger -- arrange the hay etc. singing while preparing.)

SONG: "And Mary and Joseph also came."

Mary and Joseph come in from left hand and walk across stage -- then come to the stable.

Joseph: Here we are Mary dear! Now we can rest from our long journey.

Mary: Oh Joseph, look we can use this manger for the baby

SONG: (While they settle) --Mary and Joseph song. P. 113 Sing oh sing.

Big and Little Angels go and get the baby. Then the Big Angel gets the little angels together in front of crib. (outside stable)

Big Angèè: We must proclaim this wonderful gift from God. That this little baby is born in the stable for all men to come and see. Each one of you will go to tell this wonderful news and bring all who have an open heart to the manger.

All Angels: Yes,--let's go and call who will come!

(Little angel's go joyfully -- skipping -- singing?)

Entrance of old Shepherd, girls, children and mother.

Blind Old Shepherd is sitting on a bench modeling with clay -- waiting for the Messiah.

SONG: "When the Messiah comes."

Blind Old Shepherd: (speaking to himself and audience). How I long for the day when the Messiah will come to this earth. There is so much quarreling and so many people in need. But I do believe He will come one day as it has been foretold!

(Angel 1 comes in and goes to Blind Shepherd.)

Angel 1: Have you heard the wonderful news? (Blind man stares vacantly up but listening) A little baby has been born who is the King of Kings! He has come to care for all the world.

Blind Old Shepherd: (excitedly) Where? where? I have been waiting for the Messiah for a long time. Oh do take me to him. (gets up excitedly - but fumbling!)

Angel 1: Yes, I shall take you to the stable where he is in a manger.

(angel leads blind old shepherd to crib -- who when there feels the child with his hands - and then is able to see.)

Old Shepherd: Oh, what a wonderful baby! Look, I can see -- Truly, I can see! He is the King of Kings!!

(old shepherd kneels by the crib)

Then from behind audience 3 poor children come.

SONG: "The Star"

Ruth: Did you see that bright light? I could hardly open my eyes, it was so bright!

Leonard: I was sleeping under the tree when suddenly I also saw a shining light! But where is it now?

Barbara: (scared) Oh, Ruth, I want my Mama. -- I'm frightened!

Ruth: Don't be scared Barbara, Leonard and I will look after you. Leonard let's see if we can find that bright light.

Leonard: Oh look!

(angel 2 meets them)

Angel 2: You poor children why are you out in this dark wood so late at night?

Ruth: We have no home, -- and while we were sleeping under that big tree - we suddenly woke up with a bright light shining in our eyes. We want to find it.

Leonard: Did you see it?

Angel 2: Yes. It is the bright star shining over the new born King.

Barbara: Can we see him?

Angel 2: Come with me to the manger.

(Angel leads children to the crib)

SONG: "Oh Bethlehem" 1st verse only.

Children sing a simple lullaby to the baby.

(A lamb comes bleating on to stage from left.)

Lamb: Something special has happened -- I just have that feeling. I'm looking for it. (goes to crib - bleats for joy!)

A little dumb shepherd boy is looking for his lamb. He meets an angel.

Angel 3: What are you looking for?

Little Shepherd boy: makes actions for his little lamb - keeps looking around.

Angel 3: You are looking for your little lamb, and you can't tell me. Come with me. I will show you where he is.

(Little shepherd boy goes with angel towards crib. Suddenly they hear bleating of lamb -- Shepherd boy runs toward lamb and sees the baby in the manger.)

Shepherd Boy: (touches the baby and then can speak suddenly.)
Oh, what a sweet baby! (all at crib look surprised at the boy)
I wish I had brought a present for him. (Goes to Mary.)
I will let him have my lamb - I am so happy! I can speak and sing.

SHEPHERD SONG: (Christmas song book - p. 402 verses 1 and 2.)

A little sick girl is sitting in a rocking chair in the left hand corner knitting, by her side are some crutches.

Elizabeth: (knitting and humming to herself --)

Angel 4: (comes in to Elizabeth)
Elizabeth, have you heard the wonderful news. That a little baby is born in a manger. And his name is Jesus and he is the King of all the world.

Elizabeth: Oh, how I wish I could go and see him and touch his soft cheeks! If only I could walk and go to him!

Angel 4: Come, I'll take you - if I hold one hand and you use your crutch with the other, I'm sure you'll manage.

Elizabeth: (gets up with help of angel)
Oh and I can take my wooly blanket, which I just finished knitting. I'm sure he'll need a warm blanket on such a cold night.

(Angel 4 leading Elizabeth go to manger slowly. On the way they see Christmas roses blooming which they also pick to take to the baby?)

Elizabeth: (takes her blanket to the crib and covers the baby, she still uses her crutch.) Then says:
Oh my legs feel so strong! I'm sure I don't need my crutches any more - Look I can skip and dance! (she skips around and all are glad.)

SONG: page 385 -- 2 verses

(On the right hand are 2 children and their mother who begin to affix a Christmas tree)

Mother: Children look at all these pretty decorations. You can help me trim the tree.

Bartholomew: Mother, I can put the Star on the top. That will make the tree look beautiful.

Rachel: I want to hang the tinsel on all the branches.

SONG: "Christmas tree "

Angel 5: Come to the manger. Come to see the manger. Come to see the tiny King.

Mother: What are you saying?

Angel 5: Yes, I have news to tell you, all should come to the manger to see the newborn King. He is waiting for you.

Rachel: Oh mother can we go? We can finish decorating the tree later.

Bartholomew: We could take it to the baby. He will love the bright colors.

Rachel: Yes!

Mother: Let us go with the angel -- to see this new born baby.

(They follow angel to the crib with small tree)

Mother: Oh what a precious little treasure. Such a gift from heaven.

(Mother and children look at baby) and put the little tree in a safe place.)

Children:

Swineherd: (comes through the audience -- crying)
Ho -- ho- - - - - I can't find my pigs - what shall I do ho --ho-!
(keeps looking around)

Angel 6: Swineherd-- here you are. I've been looking for you. Do you want to come with me to the manger to see the new born King?

Swineherd: No! I can't come. I have to find my pigs, And I don't have a present anyway, so what's the use of going to a King?

Angel 6: All you need is a kind heart. You don't need to bring a present. The baby would much rather have your love than a present. And I also know that your pigs are safely at home.
(thinks a little)

Swineherd: All right, I'll come and see if that is really true.

Angel 6: (leads him to crib)

Swineherd: (looks in rather shyly and then feels humbled - so he quietly kneels down in front of crib.)

Oh, you are true, you darling little baby Jesus. All I can offer you is my heart. And I want to love you.

At the end some children from audience could come to manger - too --.

Sing songs: Carol of the Shepherd "Oh, come"

352 Christmas song book
113 Sing or sing.