

Scene 1

Jodie

Music: Procession

Enter villagers, who sit in groups
Mary is sitting, sewing
Enter Angel Gabriel.

~~Man~~ Angel Gabriel Greetings, Mary. The Lord is with you! I have
great news for you. God is sending you a baby son
and you will call him Jesus.

Song 2: Great News!

Scene II

Susan -Villager What's that?

Jeremy -Soldier Read it and see.

Susan -Villager What me! I can't read

Jenny -Villager Neither can I? What does it say

Jeremy -Soldier It says that every man has to go and be registered.

Melanie -Villager Registered? What's that?

Joshua -Soldier Well, you know - get counted.

Melanie -Villager Why?

Joshua -Soldier So that the Emperor Augustus can find out how many people he has in his empire.

Jeremy -Soldier Yes. You see - there are so many countries in his empire - France, Spain, Egypt, Africa, Greece, Turkey, and Morocco.

Joshua -Soldier And there must be lots of people living in them.

Jeremy -Soldier Hundreds.

Joshua -Soldier Thousands.

Jeremy -Soldier Millions.

Joshua -Soldier Billions.

Susan -Villager I see what you mean. All those people - mothers and fathers.

Jenny -Villager Sisters and brothers.

Melanie -Villager Grandmas and grandads.

Senny -Villager Aunties and uncles.

Jeremy -Soldier That's right. All busy and living in towns and villages. The Emperor wants everyone to get counted. Well! He's boss.

Senny -Villager *(After a pause)* It's going to take a long time to count everybody. He'll have to walk a long way.

Susan -Villager Don't be daft! Emperors don't walk! They ride in chariots with horses!

Jeremy -Soldier But the Emperor won't do the counting. He's sending special people to every country to do that.

Susan -Villager What happens if someone gets counted twice?

Joshua -Soldier Oh - he's thought of that. Every man has to go to the place where he was born, and take his family with him.

Jeremy -Soldier Yes - you've got to go back to the place where you started.

Song 3 Census Rock *(as song finishes)*

Susan -Villager That's great! *(as the news sinks in)* Hey! Wait a minute! Do you mean to say that we've all got to go back to the place where we were born.

Joshua -Soldier Yes. That's what this notice is about. *(he reads)* Ahem! 'Every man must go back to the town where he was born to be registered!'

Well, well! That's a bit thick, *(ect.)*

Susan -Villager *(to Ash-Soldier)* You must be losing your senses

Jeremy -Soldier No. I haven't lost my census. It's here! *(holds up a large*

roll of paper labeled 'Census'.

Melanie -Villager

Here's Joseph.

Joseph enters with Mary.

Jenny -Villager

Have you heard the news, Joseph.

Joseph -Joseph

What's this?

Susan -Villager

Everybody's got to get counted.

Joshua -Soldier

(aside) Who's he?

Susan -Villager

(aside) He's the village carpenter. Mary is his wife.

Joseph -Joseph

All right. I can read it for myself. Hmm. That means that Mary and I will have to go to Bethlehem.

Kayla -Mary

Oh Joseph - must we?

Joseph -Joseph

I'm afraid so, Mary.

Susan -Villager

Oh dear. The roads are so bad at this time of year.

Melanie -Villager

There's so much traffic.

Jenny -Villager

Yes. People will go speeding. Our Philip was nearly knocked down by a camel last week.

Melanie -Villager

And you never know who you'll meet on the road these days. We might get robbed.

Joseph -Joseph

Mary and I are so poor that no-one would want to rob us.

The crowd begins to melt away.

Mary and Joseph are left alone in center of stage.

Kayla -Mary

Joseph - do we have to go? It's 80 miles to Bethlehem.

Joseph -Joseph

And uphill most of the way.

Kayla -Mary

Couldn't we go later, when the baby is born? It's going to be a special baby. A holy child. The angel said so.

Joseph -Joseph

I know, but don't worry, Mary. I'll look after you. Will you start packing for the journey? We'll need food and blankets. It will be cold at night.

They walk off the stage.

Scene III

Bethlehem, several nights later.

Kayla -Mary

I'm glad we've arrived. I'm worn out, Joseph. Where are we going to stay?

Joseph -Joseph

Poor Mary. You do look tired. Here's an inn. We'll ask if they can give us a room. *(knock)*

Joshua -Innk.

What do you want?

Joseph -Joseph

We'd like a room for the night, please.

Joshua -Innk.

What? You must be joking! We're packed out. Everyone has come to register in Bethlehem.

Joseph -Joseph

We'll go and find somewhere else, then. Thank you.

Joshua -Innk.

I don't think you'll find anywhere.

Susan -Innk.'s Wife

We've been rushed off our feet all day. I've never known anything like it.

Joshua -Innk.

It's the Emperor's Census that's done it. Well, it's good for trade.

Kayla -Mary Oh dear, I'm so cold and tired.

Joseph :-Joseph It will be all right, Mary. Come on. We'll find somewhere else.

They walk round, but nobody has room

Joseph :-Joseph It's no good, Mary. All the inns are full. There isn't anywhere to stay.

Song 4 No Room *As the round ends, everybody leaves the stage, except for Mary and Joseph and the Innkeeper and his wife.*

Joshua -Innk. I'll tell you what. You can sleep in our stable if you like.

Kayla -Mary Can we? Oh thank you!

~~Susan~~ Joseph -Joseph The stable? Are you sure you don't mind, Mary?

Kayla -Mary No. I'm just glad that we can stay somewhere for the night.

Susan -Innk.'s Wife Come on, then. I'll show you the way. (to husband)
Get some fresh straw.

Scene IV

Enter Three Wise Men with their servants

Jeremy -Melchoir It's a tiring journey. We have traveled over so many deserts. Do you really imagine that we are going to find a newborn King?

Jenny -Caspar Don't give up, now, Melchoir.

Susan -Balthazar I am sure that our books are correct. I have studied the stars for many years and I know that if we continue in this direction we shall find the new-born King, for it is written in the books.

Jenny -Caspar Quite right, Balthazar, quite right. I have never

before seen such a brilliant star as that. It shines in the East as though guiding us. Boy! Fetch my book. (*he looks round*) Where is my page boy?

Jeremy - Melchoir I can't find mine either.

Susan - Balthazar They've all disappeared. (*they all gaze round*) Here we are packed and ready to go, and we can't find our page boys.

Song 5 Boys! *As the song ends, the page boys appear with the books.*

Jeremy - Melchoir Where *have* you been?

Susan - Balthazar Come along boys! We are almost at the end of our journey. We must find the King!

Jenny - Caspar Yes. It is written here. If we travel East we will find the King
(*exit*)

Scene V

Shepherds are sitting round a fire.

Melanie - Shepherd It's a cold night.

Kelly - Shepherd Freezing, but it's lovely and warm by our fire.

Enter Ben-Shepherd.

Joshua - Shepherd All the sheep are safe. That new lamb is fast asleep by his mother.

Kelly - Shepherd Come and get warm by the fire.

Melanie - Shepherd Pass me one of those sheep skins, Andrew.

Glendon - Are you sure there aren't any wolves or bears about?

Kelly -Shepherd Of course not.

Joshua-Shepherd I've just told you - all the sheep are safe. (stands) If you're going to be a shepherd boy, Andrew, you won't have to be afraid of anything.

Melanie -Shepherd (standing up) Think of young David, who killed Goliath with his sling.

Song 6 Shepherds's March

Glenda ~~Shepherd~~ I'm going to be just as brave as David.

Melanie-Shepherd Good lad. Come and sit by the fire.

Joshua-Shepherd It's a beautiful night. Look at all the stars. And the sky's all blue. Deep purple blue.

Melanie -Shepherd The moon is so bright. The whole sky is lit up.

Kelly -Shepherd Goodness - what's happening?

Enter angels.

Senny Angel Gabriel
~~angel~~
Do not be afraid.
I have good news for you.
There is great joy coming to all the people.
Today in the city of David,
A Saviour has been born.
You will find the baby lying all
Wrapped up in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest.
And on earth, peace,
Goodwill toward men.

Exit angels. There is a moment silence.

Melanie-Shepherd What shall we do?

Joshua^a Shepherd We'd better do as the angel said.

Kelly Shepherd Come on - what are waiting for? Let's go to Bethlehem.

Exit in haste.

Scene VI

The stable - if possible raised and apart from the rest of the stage. Mary and Joseph sit by the manger in the stable, looking at the baby.

Song 7. Serenade

*A few villagers enter quietly and sit, listening to music.
Enter Shepherds to one side of the stage.*

Kelly Shepherd Well. Here we are in Bethlehem.

Glendon~~er~~ Shepherd Where's the baby King?

Melanie Shepherd The angel said that he would be in a manger.

Kelly Shepherd With the animals.

Joshua^a Shepherd That's what he said. *(he approaches a village)* Er -
Excuse me. Can you tell me where I can find a baby King.

Susan Villager Eh? You what?

Glendon~~er~~ Shepherd A baby King. We're looking for one.

Susan Villager I don't know anything about a King, but a baby has been born - in the stable of that inn. That is the only baby I've heard about. *(exit)*

Melanie Shepherd Could that be the baby that we're looking for?

1-9

Kelly -Shepherd It could be *(they approach the inn)*
Melanie -Shepherd *(puts hand on door, then stops)* What shall I say?
Kelly -Shepherd Just say - 'We're looking for a baby.'
Melanie -Shepherd All right. You go first.
Kelly -Shepherd What me? No - you go first.

~~Shepherd~~ You'll wake the baby.

Arthur pushes open the door and goes in. The other shepherds follow and group themselves round the manger.

Song 8. Lullaby

Scene VII

At the other side of the stage the Three Kings appear with their pages.

Jeremy -Melchoir Our books were correct, Balthazar. Here is the baby, and the star is shining directly over the stable.

Jenny -Caspar Pages - get the presents. Hurry!

~~Page~~ -1st Page

Gold

-2nd Page

Frankincense

~~Page~~ -1st Page

Myrrh

*They hand the gifts to the Three Kings who carry them to the manger and lay them at Mary's feet.
The Innkeeper's wife enters.*

Susan -Innk. wife Yes. Yes. It is a baby King! Come in, everyone. Tell someone to ring the bells to welcome the baby.