

Christmas Eve Nativity Story

Slide:

1 – Moon

Words:

This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The people will show us how to go.

2 – Bethlehem
Sunset

The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. Indeed, “Bethlehem” means “House of Bread”.

In the centre of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat.

3 – Creche

Behind the inn is a dark stable

4 – Animals

A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw, while a weary cow leans and rests after the day’s plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep.

All is still and quiet in the little town.

Verses of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

5 – Mary/Joseph 1

As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband.

6 – Mary/Joseph 2

They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago.

Slide:

Words:

They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax.

Mary/Joseph w
Animals

But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Verses of "Once in Royal David's City"

7 – Starry Night

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath.

8 – Baby Jesus

Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn baby!

Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that his father has filled with straw.

9 – Mary and Baby Jesus

Verses of "Away in a Manger"

9 – Shepherds 1

In the hills outside of Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter: the faces of Angels.

10 – Angels/Shepherds

The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Saviour is born! He is Christ, the Lord!

11 – Choir of Angels

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere!"

Slide:**Words:**

12 – Shepherds 2

The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to Nativity itself in the centre of all that love.

Verses of “While Shepherds Watched”

13 – Camels

Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea.

14 – Magi 1

The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

Verses of “We Three Kings”

15 – Full Nativity

The kings’ journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

16 – Baby Jesus

So now we all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to greet the Christ-child and discover God within us.

Let us pray,

God our Father,
today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.

Slide:

Baby Jesus

Words:

Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we
sing, for this night is holy and filled with over-flowing
love.

We sing "Silent Night" as the Christ Candle is lit