

Crib Service 1

An outline for a Crib Service narrated by the Archangels Michael and Gabriel.
This includes scripted readings and suggestions for carols.

Order of service

Welcome

We are waiting

For a very special day.

We are waiting

for a very special present.

We are waiting

For a very special baby.

We are waiting

For Christmas, the birthday of Jesus!

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem,

Leader to introduce our special guests for today.
The Archangel Michael and the archangel Gabriel.

Michael – Mic

Gabriel - Gab

(Enter Mic)

Mic: (Calling) Gabriel! Oh Gabriel! Where are you? Gabriel! Oh Gabriel! Where are you? (looks at congregation) ... Oh hello, I didn't see you there Gosh, there's a lot of you here today! I wonder, have you seen Gabriel? Err ... the Archangel Gabriel that is. I've been looking for him everywhere but he's just never around these days. In fact I don't think I've seen him for months. (calling) Gabriel! Oh Gabriel! Where are you?

(Gab enters)

Gab: What's up Michael? There's no need to shout, I can hear you perfectly well.

Mic: But I've been trying to find you for months Gabriel! Where have you been?

Gab: Well Michael, I've been busy.

Mic: Busy doing what?

Gab: Busy working for God.

Mic: But we're all busy working for God. All angels are busy working for God.

Gab: But I've been really busy Michael, really busy!

Mic: Doing what?

Gab: Well Michael, it's a very special time, the most special time. It's the time when God has decided to start the plan.

Mic: The plan! You mean 'The ' plan!?

Gab: I mean just that. God has started the plan. In fact it's all happening right now down there. Down there in Bethlehem.

Mic: But it's been so long! We thought he'd never do it!

Gab: Well he has! He's done it and I've been really busy making sure that everything is just right, just just right!

Mic: So what have you been up to Gabriel?

Gab: Well let's see. I've got a few friends here to help me tell you.

R1: In the sixth month God sent the Angel Gabriel to a young woman called Mary. She lived in Nazareth. She loved God and was waiting for all his promises to come true. Mary was frightened when she saw the Angel. But the Angel said:
R2: Don't be afraid Mary. I've got good news for you that will make you and all people happy. You are going to have a baby. A special baby. God's baby. You must call him Jesus and he will be a great King on earth and in heaven.
R1: Mary was puzzled.
R3: How could this be?
R2: God will make this happen, for nothing is impossible for God!
R3: Let everything happen to me just as you have said!
R1: And then the Angel left Mary. A few weeks later she realised that a baby was growing inside her.

Mic: So what happened next? That's just one trip, you said you'd been busy.
Gab: Ok, Ok, don't rush me, I'm about to tell you. But first just think about this for a minute. That little baby growing inside Mary is God himself!
Mic: What, God himself?
Gab: Yes, God himself. The great King of heaven. The great creator of all things is going to become a baby, a tiny baby on the earth.
Mic: But why would he do that?
Gab: Well believe it or not Michael, he is doing it because he loves those earth people so much.
Mic: The earth people? The Ones who do so much wrong? The ones that get God so upset?
Gab: The very ones Michael, the very ones. He loves them so much that he has decided to become one of them so he can show them the right way to live.
Mic: Well that's amazing! Amazing! So what did you do next?
Gab: Well let's find out shall we?

R1: Mary was engaged to Joseph. He was a carpenter. When he found out that Mary was going to have a baby he was very upset.
R2: I'll call off the engagement. I'll move away and live in a different town.
R1: But God sent an Angel to Joseph. The Angel appeared to him as he was dreaming.
R3: Joseph, don't be afraid to marry Mary. Her baby is a special baby. He is God's baby. You must call him Jesus. He will do wonderful things and save all people from their sins.
R1: When Joseph woke up from his dream he went to see Mary.
R2: God has told me about your baby. We will get married and I'll help you look after him.

Carol: O come, all ye faithful,

Mic: That was good work Gabriel, very good work.
Gab: Yes, that's just what I thought myself.
Mic: So what next? They settled down in Nazareth and waited for the baby to be born I suppose?
Gab: Well they did, but things didn't go quite as smoothly as they had hoped.
Mic: What do you mean?
Gab: Well I was puzzled about this one. You see I left Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, but I knew that the plan said that the baby would be born in Bethlehem. I couldn't see what would make them travel all that way, not with the baby about to be born. Until ...
Mic: Until what?
Gab: Well let's see shall we?

Interactive story

Tired: Yawn.

Baby: Ahh

Quiet: Shush

Walk(ing): Pat knees.

It was not long before Mary's baby (Ahh) was to be born. Mary was tired (yawn) and just wanted to rest. One morning a Roman soldier came to visit them. "Caesar says you've got to go to Bethlehem," he said, "now!" "But Mary is about to have a baby" (Ahh), said Joseph, "she's very tired (yawn) and she'll have to walk (pat knees) most of the way." "Hard luck," said the soldier, "get walking (pat knees) now!"

It was a long way. Joseph loaded their bags onto the donkey and they started to walk (pat knees). The baby (Ahh) wriggled in Mary's tummy. Mary was quiet (shush). Joseph was quiet (shush). The Donkey went 'clip-clop' beside them.

When they reached Bethlehem Mary could hardly take a step, she was so tired (yawn). Joseph walked (pat knees) round the town looking for a room to stay in but everywhere was full. Mary thought that her baby (Ahh) would be born right there on the noisy street. But a kind Inn-keeper showed them his stable. It was dry and quiet (shush) and had plenty of straw to lie on.

Mary was very tired (yawn). She walked (pat knees) the last few steps and lay down on the straw with the animals all around her.

That night Mary's baby (Ahh) was born, the baby Jesus, in the quiet (shush) of the stable. She put him down to sleep in the manger while all the animals looked on.

"He's a beautiful Baby," (Ahh) said Joseph. But Mary said nothing. She was very tired (yawn) and was soon fast asleep.

Carol: Silent night

Mic: But you weren't in that one Gabriel. Did you have a day off?

Gab: A day off! What do you mean. I was there all the time, every moment. I walked all the way to Bethlehem with them and I've got the blisters to prove it! I couldn't desert them after all of that could I. I couldn't desert such a special Baby.

Mic: Well I suppose not It's a bit sad though isn't it.

Gab: What do you mean?

Mic: I mean, the baby being born in a stable and laid in a manger. It's very sad.

Gab: But it's what God wanted. It's the way he wanted to do all of this.

Mic: Well seems strange to me, but what next.

Gab: Oh yes! That's why I'm here. I came to find you because we need you for the next bit.

Mic: Me? Why? What can I do?

Gab: Well we've got a bit of singing to do. We need a heavenly choir and I know what a lovely voice you've got! So come on, get a move on.

Mic: But where are we going?

Gab: have you been listening to anything I've just told you? Where do you think we are going? To Bethlehem of course. We can't keep this baby a secret can we! We've got people to tell!

R1 Just outside Bethlehem there were shepherds in the fields looking after their sheep during the night. It was very dark, when suddenly there was a brilliant light shining all around them. They were very frightened, but then they heard a voice.

R2: Do not be frightened shepherds! I have come to bring you good news that will make everyone happy. Today in Bethlehem a baby has been born. He is the saviour, Christ the Lord! Go to Bethlehem and search. You will find a baby all wrapped up and lying in a manger, he is the baby!

R1: Suddenly a great heavenly choir of angels appeared all singing and praising God.

R2: Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth.

R1: Then everything was dark again. The shepherds looked at each other.

R3: Come on then, let's go! We'll search every stable until we find him, the baby in the manger, the baby who is Christ the Lord!

R1: So they ran into the town. They ran from stable to stable and eventually they found a baby, all wrapped up and lying in a manger! The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all about the Angels and they went back to the fields praising God for everything that had happened.

Carol: While shepherds watched

(Mic and Gab come running on)

Mic: That was brilliant Gabriel, brilliant!

Gab: It is amazing isn't it, amazing!

Mic: But is it true Gabriel? Is it really true?

Gab: What do you mean?

Mic: I mean, is it really true that that tiny little baby is God himself? God become a human being? God become that small?

Gab: You know Michael, it is. It is true! In fact it's the most true thing ever. God became a human being, he lived a human life and he did it all so that these humans can become like us. So that each of them can come and live with us in heaven. That's how much God loves them, each one of them.

Mic: Well God must love them a lot then.

Gab: Even more than we could ever imagine Michael. Even more than we could ever imagine!

Talk

Prayers

Jesus, there was no room in Bethlehem when you were born,
But there is room in my heart for you today.
Lord Jesus, come
And be born again today.

Lord Jesus, many other babies are born in poverty,
Help all children who cry out in hunger.
Lord Jesus, come
And be born again today.

Lord Jesus, many other families are homeless
And live in a dark and unfriendly world.
Lord Jesus, come
And be born again today.

Lord Jesus, many people will not be having a happy Christmas
Shine your light and bring joy to this troubled world.
Lord Jesus, come
And be born again today.

Thank you Lord for Christmas,
Thank you for the message of the angels,
Thank you that in Jesus
You have brought joy and peace into the world.
May our homes be filled with Christmas joy tomorrow
And our hearts with Christmas peace,
And may Jesus be born again in us this Christmas time.
Lord Jesus, come
And be born again today.

Formation of the nativity scene

Carol as children come forward: Once in Royal David's city

Carol: Away in a manger

Blessing

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