

DRAFT - The Friendly Beasts

SCENE 1: Shepherds

MUSIC: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” pg 94

PROCESSION: Angel Gabriel – Leads procession in the church and stands at the side of the altar. Shepherds – Follow in two by two, group together, and sit on chancel steps around mock fire on right. 3-7 Angels – Follow shepherds, carry scrolls, and stand either side of shepherds.

As music ceases, the shepherds mime the story as it is told by the angels. The Angels take time to unroll their scrolls and then begin reading. At the word of the second Angel, Gabriel moves forward towards the shepherds, with arms raised in an attitude of blessing.

ANGEL 1: There were some shepherds in that part of the country, who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks.

ANGEL 2: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them.

ANGEL 3: They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid for I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people.”

ANGEL 4: “This very night in David’s town, your savior is born-Christ the Lord.”

ANGEL 5: “This is what will prove it to you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

ANGEL 6: Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises of God.

ANGELS TOGETHER: “Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to men of goodwill.”

ANGEL 7: When the angels went away from them, back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened, that the angels have told us.”

SCENE 2: Mary and Joseph**MUSIC: "Silent Night" pg 111**

PROCESSION: Mary, carrying the baby, followed by Joseph, moves up the aisle to the centre of the sanctuary. She sits on the stool, Joseph stands behind her, slightly to one side.

The donkey, cow, sheep, goat, and dove follow the Holy family up the aisle and they group themselves to the left.

Angels – Follow shepherds, carry scrolls, and stand behind animals.

ANGEL 8: At the time Emperor Augustus sent out an order for all citizens to register themselves for the census.

ANGEL 9: Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea to the town named Bethlehem, where King David was born.

ANGEL 10: Joseph went there because he himself was a descendant of David.

ANGEL 11: He went to register himself with Mary, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby.

ANGEL 12: She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger. For there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

SCENE 3: Animals**MUSIC: "The Friendly Beasts" – Children sing; one for each animal, small group for each animal, or all.****ANIMALS SING:**

**Jesus our Brother, kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.**

DONKEY:

**"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down.
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town."
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.**

COW:

**"I," said the cow, all white and red,
I gave him my manger for his bed.
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."**

“I,” said the cow, all white and red.

SHEEP:

**“I,” said the sheep, with a curly horn,
“I gave him my wool to keep him warm.
He wore my coat on Christmas morn,”
“I,” said the sheep, with a curly horn.**

GOAT:

**“I,” said the goat, all white and warm,
“I gave him my milk to make him strong.
I gave him my milk to help him grow.”
“I,” said the goat, all white and warm.**

DOVE:

**“I,” said the dove, from the rafter high
Cooed Him to sleep that He should not cry,
“We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I,
I said the dove from the rafters high”
.”**

ENDING:

**Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel,
The gift he gave Emmanuel.**

SCENE 3: Kings

MUSIC: “We Three Kings” – Congregation

PROCESSION: 3 Kings come in from three different ways and stand in aisle. Angels unroll their scrolls deliberately and read.

ANGEL 13: Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in the land of Judea, during the time when Herod was king.

ANGEL 14: Soon afterwards some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the baby, born to be King of the Jews?”

ANGEL 15: “We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

ANGEL 16: The Chief Priests and teachers answered, “In the town of Bethlehem, in Judea.”

ANGEL 17: With this they left, and on their way they saw the star-the same one they had seen in the east-and I went ahead of them until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

ANGEL 18: They went into the house and saw the child with his mother Mary. They knelt down and worshipped him; then gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

MUSIC: "Birthday of a King"

1. In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day, and the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.

REFRAIN:

Alleluia, O how the angels sang. Alleluia" How it ran! An the sky was bright with a holy light, Twas the birthday of a KING!

2. Twas a humble birthplace, but oh, how much God gave to us that day, From a manger bed, what a path hath led, What a perfect holy way!

REPEAT REFRAIN:

PROCESSION: The 3 kings approach while the children are singing and kneel before taking their places in back of the Holy Family.

MUSIC: "Zumba, Zumba" – ALL on stage, with percussions instruments.

REFRAIN:

Zumba, Zumba Strike the cymbal, Zumba, Zumba strike the gong, Zumba, Zumba Beat the Timbal and the tambourine and Drum

Born on this night is a baby, everyone bring him a present

Brings him a savory meatpie , made out of partridge and pheasant

Repeat Refrain:

What shall I take to the baby? What shall I say when I take it?

I'll bring a gourd for a rattle, I'll ask his mother to shake it>

Repeat Refrain: