

Christmas Program

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

Narrator: Many wonderful things happened on the night when Jesus Christ was born. Some of the things are mentioned every year. But perhaps many people don't know that on that night all of the animals were able to speak. There are people who say that every year on Christmas Eve they still do.

But let's start at the beginning - and to do that we will need your help.

There was a woman named Mary who was engaged to a man named Joseph. One day Joseph had to take a trip to the city of Bethlehem. So Mary went with him. Let's sing: ***O Little Town Of Bethlehem.***

(Mary and Joseph come on stage.)

The city of Bethlehem was crowded. Many people had come there. Joseph and Mary looked for a place to stay. But there was no room in any house. All the beds were full. People were even sleeping on the floors. So Joseph and Mary had to stay in a stable where the donkeys and horses were kept.

That night, the baby was born. It was God's baby son. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus, just as the angel had told them to do. They wrapped him up so he would be warm. Mary made a soft bed for him in a manger. The baby Jesus slept there. Mary loved him. Joseph loved him. And God love him. Let's sing: ***Away In A Manger.***

(Shepherds slowly become visible to the audience)

It was still night. Outside the town of Bethlehem, some sheep were sleeping. Shepherds were watching them. Suddenly an angel came to the shepherds.

(an angel comes on stage)

And God's glory shone around them. They were afraid. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news. This is happy news for all people: today in Bethlehem, God's Son was born. You can go see him. He is wrapped warm and snug in a manger!"

(Other angels appear, as many as you wish to use)

Then many, many angels came from heaven. They praised God, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth." Let's sing: ***Angels We Have Heard On High.***

(Angels slowly leave and shepherds come forward)

When the angels left, the shepherds said, "Let's go find this baby!" So they hurried to town. They found the stable. And they saw the new baby. Let's sing: ***O Come, All You Faithful.***

Then the shepherds left, thanking God.

(Shepherds exit stage)

There was one last group of visitors. God put a special star in the sky when Jesus was born. Some wise men who lived in the east saw this star. They knew it was a sign. It meant that a baby king had been born. These wise men wanted to visit the baby. So they followed the star for a long way.

(Wise men move on stage)

And the star led them right to the place where Jesus was. They were very happy that they had found him. They bowed down. They gave him gifts: sweet-smelling gifts, sparkling, golden gifts. Let's sing: ***We Three Kings Of Orient Are.***

(Wise men give their gifts and then exit stage)

After the kings had gone, the animals were finally left alone with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. They had their own special gifts to offer him. Let's sing: ***The Friendly Beasts.***

(Each animal moves on stage during the appropriate verse of the song or have all on stage and move forward one at a time during song)

It was a wonderful night - a Holy Night - a night that people would always remember! Let's end our program by singing: ***Silent Night.***

(Everyone comes back on stage for last song)

The above text is based on sections of: THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE

Submitted by Fr. John Shimchick
Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ