a script from

GODSVERSE.ORG

Good News for the Whole Congregation

PURCHASE SCRIPT TO REMOVE WATERMARK AT GODSVERSE.ORG

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Good News for the Whole Congregation

A 45-Minute Full-Length Narrated Nativity Play | Cast: 15–30

Good News for the Whole Congregation is a rich, full-length Christmas program designed for churches that want a beautifully complete retelling of the birth of Jesus—from the prophecy and angelic announcement to the shepherds, wise men, Simeon, Anna, and even the escape to Egypt. With a strong narrator guiding every transition, this script blends Scripture-based storytelling, short dramatized scenes, optional modern-day segments, and beloved Christmas carols into a single, seamless production that engages the entire congregation.

Perfect for children's ministries, family Christmas services, or multi-age casts, this play offers flexible roles for 15–30 performers, with optional characters (innkeepers, additional shepherds, musicians, townspeople, temple attendants) that make it easy to involve as many participants as you'd like. Each scene is simple to stage, yet deeply meaningful—making it ideal for both large churches with full tech teams and smaller congregations that want a heartfelt, uncomplicated Christmas experience.

Part 1 presents the classic nativity story, while Part 2 extends the narrative to Simeon, Anna, the wise men, Joseph's dream, the escape to Egypt, and a modern-day church family. This extra dimension helps children and adults understand not only *what* happened on the first Christmas, but also *how the good news still matters today*. The final scenes invite the audience itself to stand and echo the angels' message: "Good news for all people!"

Why Churches Choose This Script

- Flexible cast size: 15–30 roles, easy to expand
- Narrator-driven: Simple for children and new performers
- Full-length format: Excellent for Christmas Eve or Sunday family services
- Blends drama + carols: Natural spots for "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," and more
- Biblically rich: Includes shepherds, wise men, King Herod, Simeon, Anna, and the Holy Family
- Contemporary relevance: Optional modern scenes connect ancient story to today
- Minimal set needs: Basic nativity pieces, simple lighting, robes, and props

What You Need

- Traditional nativity costumes (shepherds, angels, wise men, Mary & Joseph)
- A manger, star, and simple stable backdrop
- Optional throne for Herod, temple backdrop for Simeon & Anna
- Soft lighting and background music

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Good News for the Whole Congregation

A Full-Length Narrated Nativity for Churches

Length: ~45 minutes

Cast: 15–30 (highly flexible)

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Primary Roles

- **Narrator** – Warm, steady voice; guides the whole story; can be shared by 2 people if desired
- **Gabriel** – The angel who brings key announcements
- **Lead Angel** – Can be Gabriel or a separate angel
- **Angel Choir** – 4–10 children or youth
- **Mary** – Gentle, faithful, thoughtful
- **Joseph** – Kind, steady, protective
- **King Herod** – Dramatic, proud, a bit comical but serious when needed
- **Chief Priest** – Knows the prophecies
- **Scribe** – Reads from scrolls and responds to Herod
- **Wise Man 1** – Thoughtful, scholarly
- **Wise Man 2** – Practical, observant
- **Wise Man 3** – Joyful, expressive
- **Shepherd 1** – Young, curious (could be a child)
- **Shepherd 2** – Older, cautious
- **Shepherd 3** – Enthusiastic, easily amazed

Optional / Flexible Roles

- Additional **Shepherds**
- **Innkeeper 1** – Busy, apologetic
- **Innkeeper 2** – Firm but not unkind
- **Townspeople** – Can be any number; fill crowd scenes
- **Country Shepherds** – Extra shepherds with simple gestures
- **Musicians / Children's Choir** – Lead carols with congregation
- **Stable Animals** – Non-speaking kids with simple costumes (donkey, cow, sheep, etc.)
- **Messengers / Attendants** – Serve Herod and help move props

SIMPLE SET IDEAS

- **Stage Left:** Herod's throne (chair), table, scrolls
- **Center:** Open area that becomes Nazareth, Bethlehem streets, and fields
- **Stage Right:** Stable with manger, a few bales of straw
- **Backdrop:** Star or simple night-sky cloth; one larger "special" star for the wise men
- **Lighting:** Dim for night scenes, bright for angels and star moments

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SCENE 1 – THE STORY BEGINS

(Lights up softly. NARRATOR steps to a podium or front-center. Quiet instrumental of a Christmas carol plays under the opening lines and fades.)

Narrator:

Good evening, church family.

Tonight we're going to walk together through the story that changed the world—

the *good news for the whole congregation*, and for the whole world.

We'll meet shepherds and wise men, a troubled king and a simple carpenter,

angels blazing with light, and a young girl who dared to say, "Yes," to God.

This isn't just *their* story.

It's *our* story too.

When I say, **"Good news,"** will you answer, **"For all people!"**?

Let's try it.

Narrator: Good news!

Congregation (prompted): For all people!

Beautiful. Keep that ready.

We'll need it before the night is over.

(Gestures to side.)

Our story begins long before Bethlehem… with promises.

SCENE 2 – THE PROMISES OF OLD

(On stage: PROPHETS or OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE—3–6 kids in simple robes holding scrolls. They stand in a line. Soft, expectant music.)

Narrator:

For many years, God's people waited.

Prophets spoke of a King who would come—

not just for one nation, but for the whole world.

(PROPHET 1 steps forward.)

Prophet 1:

They said, "A light will shine on people who walk in darkness."

Prophet 2:

They said, "A child will be born, a Son given… and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God."

Prophet 3:

They said, "From Bethlehem, a ruler will come. A shepherd for God's people."

Narrator:

God never forgot His promise.

Even when people wondered, *"When will He come?"*

He was preparing the *perfect* time.

(PROPHETS slowly exit as lights shift.)

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SCENE 3 – GABRIEL VISITS MARY

(Nazareth setting. MARY enters, carrying a small water jar or piece of cloth, moving quietly. Soft light. Suddenly a gentle but brighter light appears as GABRIEL enters.)

Narrator:

In a small town called Nazareth,

a young woman named Mary loved God with all her heart.

She planned to marry a man named Joseph, a carpenter.

Nothing seemed unusual—

until one day, heaven stepped into her ordinary afternoon.

(GABRIEL steps forward; MARY sees the angel and reacts with surprise.)

Gabriel:

Mary. Don't be afraid.

God is with you.

He has chosen you for something beautiful.

You will have a baby, a Son,

and you will call Him **Jesus**.

He will be great, called the Son of the Most High.

His kingdom will never end.

(MARY looks amazed but also uncertain.)

Mary:

But… how can this happen? I'm not married yet.

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Gabriel:

The Holy Spirit will come upon you.

God's power will cover you.

This holy child will be called the Son of God.

Nothing is impossible with God.

(Pause. MARY looks out toward the audience, taking a deep breath.)

Mary (soft but strong):

I am the Lord's servant.

Let it be just as you have said.

(GABRIEL smiles and bows his head, then exits. MARY stays for a moment, whispering a small prayer.)

Narrator:

In that moment, the promise moved closer.

The Savior of the world would come through a willing heart.

(MARY slowly exits. Soft instrumental of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" or similar.)

SCENE 4 – JOSEPH'S DREAM

(JOSEPH enters, tools in hand, looking troubled. He paces.)

Narrator:

But it wasn't simple.

Joseph loved Mary, but when he heard she was expecting a child,

his heart was torn.

He knew the baby wasn't his.

What was he supposed to do?

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(JOSEPH sits, puts head in hands as lights dim to "night." GABRIEL or another ANGEL appears near him.)

Angel (gently):

Joseph, son of David… don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.

The child she carries is from God's Spirit.

She will have a Son, and you will name Him **Jesus**,

because He will save His people from their sins.

(JOSEPH "wakes," startled, looking around.)

Joseph (quietly, in awe):

The Lord has spoken…

I'll trust Him. I'll stay with Mary.

(He stands straighter, as if strengthened, and exits.)

Narrator:

Two ordinary people.

One extraordinary God.

The story was moving forward… and the world had no idea.

SCENE 5 – THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

(TOWNSPEOPLE, MARY, JOSEPH assemble. A simple sign reads: "Nazareth." NARRATOR steps to the side.)

Narrator:

About that time, the ruler of the land ordered everyone to go back

to their family's hometown to be counted.

It meant one thing for Mary and Joseph—

a long journey, right before the baby was due.

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(JOSEPH helps MARY "walk" or ride an imaginary donkey—kids can mimic steps. TOWNSPEOPLE bustle around with small bags.)

Townsperson 1:

Did you hear? We have to travel *now*?

Townsperson 2:

Yes, right now! The governor wants everyone counted.

Townsperson 3:

My feet already hurt.

(Light laughter.)

Narrator:

Mary and Joseph began the trip to Joseph's family town—

a place called **Bethlehem**.

*(Choir / congregation may sing first verse of **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** as MARY, JOSEPH, and others slowly "travel" across the stage. When the song ends, a simple sign "Bethlehem" is revealed.)*

SCENE 6 – NO ROOM IN THE INN

(MARY leans on JOSEPH, obviously tired. INNKEEPER 1 stands near a simple "Inn" sign.)

Joseph (knocking):

Excuse me… is there any room for us here?

My wife is very tired. The baby is coming soon.

Innkeeper 1 (busy, apologetic):

I'm so sorry.

Every bed is full.

People are sleeping in the hallways.

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I wish I could help…

Narrator:

Mary's time was close.

They tried again.

(They move to INNKEEPER 2.)

Joseph (more urgent):

Please… is there any room at all?

We've come from far away.

Innkeeper 2 (thinking):

No room inside, not even on the floor.

But… there *is* a stable.

It's not much—

just animals and straw.

If you'd like, you can stay there.

(MARY and JOSEPH glance at one another.)

Mary (softly):

We'll take it.

Joseph (grateful):

Thank you. God bless you.

(INNKEEPER nods, gestures toward the stable.)

Narrator:

And so, the King of kings would not be born in a palace…

but in a place where animals slept.

Not among gold and jewels…

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but among straw and starlight.

(MARY and JOSEPH move toward the stable area. STABLE ANIMALS (kids with ears, tails, or headbands) peek up curiously, then shift aside as if "making room." Lights dim.)

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SCENE 7 – THE BABY IS BORN

SCRIPT

(Lights softer, warm. MARY now holds a baby doll wrapped in cloth. JOSEPH stands protectively nearby. STABLE ANIMALS kneel or lie down.)

Narrator:

TO

That night, in the quiet of the stable,

the long-awaited promise arrived.

Mary gave birth to her first Son.

She wrapped Him in simple cloths

REMOVE

and laid Him in a manger—

a feeding box for animals…

because there was no room for them anywhere else.

*(Short pause for reverence. Choir can sing **"Away in a Manger"** (1–2 verses). During the song, children/stable animals gently sway or kneel, creating a peaceful scene.)*

WATERMARK

SCENE 8 – SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS

AT

(Stable area freezes as a "tableau" while lights shift to another part of the stage. SHEPHERDS sit or stand with staffs, perhaps a small artificial "fire." COUNTRY SHEPHERDS and SHEEP (kids) can join. The night is calm.)

Narrator:

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Not far from Bethlehem,

shepherds were watching their sheep.

They were ordinary people with ordinary jobs—

not famous, not powerful.

But God chose to send His news to them first.

(SHEPHERD 1 yawns.)

Shepherd 1:

Another night. Another flock.

Do you ever feel like *nothing* exciting happens out here?

Shepherd 2:

If “exciting” means wolves… I’m good with boring.

Shepherd 3 (younger, hopeful):

Sometimes I wonder if God sees us out here…

Just little shepherds on a hillside.

Narrator:

And then… everything changed.

(Suddenly a bright light and a sound cue. GABRIEL or LEAD ANGEL appears; ANGEL CHOIR spreads out behind or around, hands lifted.)

Shepherds (shielding eyes):

Aaah!

What’s happening?!

It’s so bright!

Lead Angel (joyful, loud enough to fill the room):

Don’t be afraid!

I bring you GOOD NEWS—

good news for all people!

(Turns briefly to audience and lifts hand as cue.)

Lead Angel:

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Church, say it with me:

Good news…

Congregation:

For all people!

Lead Angel (smiling):

Today, in the town of David,

a Savior has been born for you.

He is the Messiah— the Lord.

You will find the baby wrapped in cloths,

lying in a manger.

(ANGEL CHOIR steps forward.)

Angel Choir (together, or as a few lines):

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace…

to those on whom His favor rests!

*(Choir and congregation may immediately sing **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"** (first verse). Angels gesture gently, then hold a final pose as the song ends.)*

(After the song, ANGELS slowly exit or step back into dimmer light.)

Shepherd 1 (astonished):

Did… that really just happen?

Shepherd 2:

We just heard from *angels*.

Shepherd 3 (jumping up):

What are we waiting for?

Let's go to Bethlehem right now and see this baby!

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Shepherd 2:

What about the sheep?

Shepherd 1 (grinning):

God just filled the sky with angels.

I think He can handle a few sheep.

(Light laughter.)

Narrator:

And so, the shepherds hurried to find the Child

who would one day call Himself

the Good Shepherd.

(SHEPHERDS and SHEEP move toward the stable as lights shift back to the manger.)

SCENE 9 – SHEPHERDS AT THE MANGER

(MARY and JOSEPH remain at the manger. SHEPHERDS arrive, a little out of breath.)

Shepherd 3 (softly, in awe):

Is this… the place?

Joseph (nodding):

Yes, friends.

You've come to see Jesus.

Mary (smiling, looking at the baby):

You're welcome here.

(SHEPHERDS kneel or bow.)

Shepherd 1 (to the others, still amazed):

We were just out in the fields,

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and suddenly an angel stood right in front of us!

Shepherd 2:

And then the whole sky was filled with angels—

shining and singing about this child.

Shepherd 3 (to Mary and Joseph):

They said He is the Savior.

The Messiah.

The Lord.

(Short pause as everyone looks at the baby.)

Narrator:

They didn't bring gold or gifts from a palace.

They brought something else—

their wonder,

their worship,

and the simple story of what God had shown them.

*(Optional: Choir and congregation sing **"Silent Night"**, with SHEPHERDS and HOLY FAMILY forming a still nativity pose during part of the song.)*

SCENE 10 – FAR AWAY, A STAR APPEARS

(Lights dim on manger (but do not go black—just soften). On another part of the stage, WISE MEN 1–3 stand looking up. A large star prop or spotlight appears above them.)

Narrator:

But God wasn't finished.

Far away, scholars who studied the skies saw something new—

a strange and beautiful star.

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Wise Man 1:

Look… there.

That star is unlike any we've ever tracked.

Wise Man 2 (checking a scroll):

Old writings speak of a king…

and a sign in the heavens.

Wise Man 3 (excited):

A newborn King of the Jews.

Could this be *His* star?

Wise Man 1:

If a King has been born,

we must go and worship Him.

Wise Man 2:

We'll gather gifts worthy of a king—

gold…

frankincense…

and myrrh.

Wise Man 3 (smiling):

Then let's not waste time.

We'll follow the star until it leads us to Him.

(WISE MEN begin a slow, dignified "journey" across the stage following the star prop or spotlight. Soft instrumental of "We Three Kings" can play.)

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SCENE 11 – HEROD HEARS THE NEWS

(HEROD enters grandly, in a robe and crown, and sits on a simple throne. ATTENDANTS stand nearby. The WISE MEN now stand before him.)

Narrator:

Before they could find the child,

the wise men arrived in Jerusalem—

the city of King Herod.

They expected to find celebration.

Instead, they found confusion.

Wise Man 1 (bowing slightly):

Your majesty,

we saw His star when it rose.

We've come to worship the One born

King of the Jews.

Where is He?

(HEROD looks startled and disturbed.)

Herod (trying to hide panic):

Born… King of the Jews?

I'm the king.

What is this about another king?

(HEROD waves ATTENDANT over.)

Herod:

Bring the chief priest.

Bring the scribe.

Now.

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(CHIEF PRIEST and SCRIBE enter with scrolls.)

Herod:

These men say a king has been born.

Where does your Scripture say the Messiah

will be born?

Chief Priest (opening scroll):

In Bethlehem, your majesty.

The prophet wrote:

“A ruler will come from Bethlehem

who will shepherd My people.”

Herod (thinking, then smiling too warmly):

Bethlehem, you say…

(To WISE MEN)

Go and search carefully for this child.

When you find Him,

come back and tell me where He is

so that *I* may go and worship Him too.

(HEROD’s tone suggests he’s not sincere. WISE MEN can glance at each other, uncertain but polite.)

Wise Man 2 (bowing):

We will go, your majesty.

(HEROD sits back, his smile fading to a worried or plotting expression.)

Narrator:

Herod’s heart was not full of worship.

He was afraid of losing his power.

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But God would not let anyone destroy

the good news He had just brought to the world.

(WISE MEN exit toward Bethlehem route. HEROD and court slowly exit other way.)

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SCENE 12 – THE WISE MEN FIND JESUS

SCRIPT

(The manger scene brightens again. Mary, Joseph, SHEPHERDS may be off to the side or some remain. The star is now above the stable area. WISE MEN enter slowly, reverently, carrying boxes or wrapped gifts.)

TO

Narrator:

The star led the wise men

not to a throne room,

but to a simple home or stable where the child was staying.

REMOVE

Not to soldiers,

but to a young family…

and a little boy named Jesus.

(WISE MEN kneel or bow.)

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Wise Man 1 (placing gift):

We bring **gold**,

fit for a king.

AT

Wise Man 2 (placing gift):

We bring **frankincense**,

a perfume used in worship.

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Wise Man 3 (placing gift):

We bring **myrrh**,

a costly spice.

We lay these before You, Jesus,

because You are worthy of our best.

(MARY looks touched; JOSEPH nods gratefully.)

Narrator:

They had followed a star,

answered questions from a fearful king,

and traveled many miles.

But in the end,

the greatest thing they found

was not the star—

it was the Savior.

(Short pause. Then NARRATOR continues.)

Narrator:

That night, God warned the wise men in a dream

not to go back to Herod.

So they returned to their own country

by another road—

their hearts forever changed.

(WISE MEN slowly exit, looking back one last time at the child.)

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SCENE 13 – GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY

(Now almost all characters return to the stage, forming a large semi-circle around the manger: SHEPHERDS, WISE MEN, ANGELS, PROPHETS, MARY, JOSEPH, STABLE ANIMALS, INNKEEPERS, TOWNSPEOPLE, CHILDREN'S CHOIR, etc. The stage feels "full." Lights warm and bright.)

Narrator:

So there they were—

- The young couple from Nazareth,
- the stable animals who simply made room,
- shepherds from the hillside,
- wise men from far away,
- prophets whose words had finally come true,
- angels who could not keep from singing.

Different stories.

Different backgrounds.

Same Savior.

(NARRATOR steps closer to the front of the stage.)

Narrator:

And now… we join them.

Tonight, this isn't just a story about *long ago*.

It is God's message to *us*.

When the angels said,

"I bring you **good news of great joy… for all people**,"

they meant people in Bethlehem

and people right here in this church.

They meant people long ago

and people living now—

kids, teenagers, parents, grandparents,

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friends and visitors.

Everyone.

(Turns to the cast in a half-circle.)

Let's help each other remember that.

When I say, **"Good news,"**

you say, **"For all people!"**

And congregation—join them, loud and strong.

Ready?

Narrator: Good news!

Entire Cast + Congregation: For all people!

Again.

Narrator: Good news!

All: For all people!

One more time—

for the One who came for us.

Narrator: Good news!

All: For all people!

(Music begins softly—intro to "Joy to the World" or another joyful carol.)

Narrator (over music, brief):

The child in the manger

grew up to be the man on the cross,

and the risen Savior who lives forever.

He came so we would know

that God is not far away—

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He is *with us*.

This is good news for the whole congregation,

and for the whole world.

(NARRATOR steps back as MUSIC swells.)

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SCENE 14 – FINAL CAROL & BLESSING

*(CAST and CONGREGATION now sing **"Joy to the World"** or another upbeat carol together. Children can use simple motions: raising hands on "joy," pointing outward for "the world," etc.)*

(After the song, music fades. One last short closing line.)

Narrator:

From our church family to yours—

from prophets to shepherds,

from angels to wise men,

from Mary and Joseph,

from kids and grown-ups gathered here tonight—

May you carry this good news home:

Jesus has come.

God is with us.

And this is good news…

(Gestures to cast.)

Narrator & Cast (together):

For all people!

(They wave; lights slowly fade to warm amber, then to black.)

[END OF PLAY]

Good News for the Whole Congregation – Part 2

Living the Story Today

Length: ~45 minutes (can be trimmed)

Cast: Reuses original cast, plus optional new modern-day roles

This Part 2 is written so it can be:

- Performed immediately after Part 1 as a single extended program, **or**
- Used as a follow-up program on another Sunday (like a “Chapter 2” of the Christmas play).

OVERVIEW OF PART 2

- **Scene 1:** Recap at the Manger – “What Happens Next?”
- **Scene 2:** Simeon & Anna – Waiting and Hope
- **Scene 3:** The Visit of the Wise Men (Short Recap with New Angle)
- **Scene 4:** Joseph’s Dream & Escape to Egypt – God Protects
- **Scene 5:** The Child Jesus – Growing in Wisdom
- **Scene 6:** A Modern Church, Today – Kids Talk About Good News
- **Scene 7:** A Family at Home – Bringing the Story into Real Life
- **Scene 8:** The Congregation’s Turn – “We Carry the Light”
- **Scene 9:** Final Carol & Blessing

You can cut any scene if you need a shorter runtime.

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SCENE 1 – BACK AT THE MANGER: “WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?”

(Lights rise on the same manger/stable tableau from Part 1. MARY, JOSEPH, BABY JESUS, SHEPHERDS, maybe one or two WISE MEN, and some ANIMALS. NARRATOR steps forward.)

Narrator:

In Part 1, we walked together through that holy night:

angels in the sky, shepherds in the fields,

a baby in a manger, and a star shining over them all.

But after the carols faded

and the angels went back to heaven,

after the shepherds returned to their sheep

and the wise men started their journey home…

One big question remained:

(Turns to the audience.)

What happens *next*?

(Cast around the manger “unfreezes” and begins small, natural movements.)

Shepherd 1 (to Shepherd 2):

So… do we just go back to normal now?

Shepherd 2:

We go back to our sheep, sure.

But normal?

I don’t think anything will ever be “normal” again.

Shepherd 3 (younger, looking at Jesus):

I’m going to tell *everyone* what we saw.

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I don’t wanna forget this night.

Mary (rocking baby gently):

Neither do we.

We’re still learning what it all means.

Joseph (quiet, thoughtful):

We don’t have all the answers.

But we know God keeps His promises.

Narrator:

The baby in the manger didn’t stay a baby.

He would grow,

just like every child in this room.

And God had more people to reach

with His good news.

(Lights dim slightly on the stable while soft music plays. NARRATOR moves to one side. A small “Temple” sign or backdrop is brought in on the other side.)

SCENE 2 – SIMEON & ANNA: WAITING AND HOPE

(Temple setting. SIMEON, an older man with a staff, stands to the side. ANNA, an older woman with a shawl, may be praying quietly nearby. Temple ATTENDANTS or WORSHIPERS can be added.)

Narrator:

In the city of Jerusalem,

there lived an old man named Simeon.

God had promised him something special:

that before he died, he would see the Messiah—the Savior—

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with his own eyes.

Simeon had waited

and waited

and *waited*.

(SIMEON paces slowly, looking up now and then.)

Simeon (softly, to himself):

Lord, I'm still here.

I know You keep Your word.

I don't know how You'll do it…

but I'm watching.

(ANNA moves near, hearing him.)

Anna:

Still waiting, Simeon?

Simeon (smiling):

Still waiting, Anna.

But it won't be forever.

God doesn't forget His promises.

Narrator:

One day, the Holy Spirit nudged Simeon's heart.

(SIMEON pauses, looks up, as if hearing a silent voice.)

Simeon (whispering):

Go to the Temple…

now?

Yes. Now.

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(He moves to center. ANNA watches, curious.)

Narrator:

At the very same time,

Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple,

to present Him to the Lord.

(MARY and JOSEPH enter, carrying BABY JESUS, walking reverently. They look around, a bit unsure.)

Mary:

Do you remember all the steps the priest told us?

Joseph:

I think so.

We'll do our best.

God knows we're new at this.

(SIMEON sees them and stops, deeply moved.)

Simeon (in awe):

There He is…

The One I've been waiting for.

(He approaches carefully.)

Simeon (to Mary and Joseph):

May I…

may I hold Him?

(MARY and JOSEPH exchange a glance, then nod. MARY gently hands baby to SIMEON. He looks at the child with tears of joy.)

Simeon (lifting his eyes slightly):

Lord… now You can let Your servant

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go in peace…

because my eyes have seen Your salvation—

A light for people of all nations

and glory for Your people Israel.

(MARY and JOSEPH listen, amazed again.)

Mary (softly to Joseph):

Everywhere we go,

someone confirms what the angel said…

Joseph:

Sometimes I feel like my heart can't hold any more wonder.

(ANNA now steps closer, eyes bright.)

Anna:

This is Him, isn't it?

The promised One?

Simeon (nodding):

Yes, Anna.

The One we've hoped for.

(ANNA looks at Jesus, then at the people around her—ATTENDANTS, WORSHIPERS, extra cast.)

Anna (to everyone nearby):

Listen!

This child… this Jesus…

He is the One God promised.

If you've been waiting for God to help you,

don't lose heart.

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The Savior is here.

(ANNA begins moving around, joyfully telling others. ATTENDANTS react with interest and surprise.)

Narrator:

Simeon and Anna had waited most of their lives.

They didn't see Jesus grow up,

they didn't hear all His teachings—

but they knew one thing:

God keeps His promises.

And that was enough.

(MARY gently takes the baby back. SIMEON and ANNA bow their heads in quiet reverence.)

Narrator (to audience):

Some of us here know what it's like to wait

for God to answer a prayer.

Simeon and Anna remind us:

waiting time is not wasted time

when we're trusting God.

(Lights fade on the Temple scene. Cast exits quietly.)

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SCENE 3 – THE WISE MEN (REVISITED): GOD REACHES FAR AWAY HEARTS

If you want to keep Part 2 shorter, you can skip this scene, since the wise men already appeared in Part 1. This version shows a new angle, focusing on how God reaches people from "far away."

(Spotlight on NARRATOR; WISE MEN appear slowly in the background, as if in a memory scene.)

Narrator:

We met the wise men before—

travelers from far away

who followed a star to Jesus.

Let's visit them again,

just for a moment.

(WISE MEN kneel in the background, offering their gifts as in Part 1. Then they step aside to speak together, away from the manger.)

Wise Man 1:

We came from nations far away…

and yet, at His feet,

we felt strangely at home.

Wise Man 2:

No one told us we were outsiders here.

This tiny King welcomed our worship

just as much as the shepherds' humble praise.

Wise Man 3:

I used to think God was far…

only for certain people.

But tonight I've learned something:

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He came *for all nations*.

Even for us.

Narrator:

The wise men remind us

that Jesus didn't come just for one language,

or one country,

or one kind of person.

He came for every tribe,

every tongue,

every nation.

(WISE MEN bow their heads one more time, then exit slowly.)

Narrator (to audience):

And that means

there is a place for *you*

in this story, too.

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SCENE 4 – JOSEPH'S DREAM & THE ESCAPE TO EGYPT

(HEROD'S THRONE area appears again. HEROD looks worried and angry. SCRIBE and CHIEF PRIEST stand nearby.)

Narrator:

But not everyone welcomed Jesus.

Remember King Herod?

He felt threatened by the idea

of another "king."

And when the wise men did *not* come back

to tell him where Jesus was,

he grew more afraid

and more dangerous.

Herod (pacing):

Those travelers…

they've tricked me.

If there's a child people call "king,"

he could one day take my throne.

(He slams his hand on the armrest.)

Herod:

I won't allow it.

Send soldiers to Bethlehem.

(You can choose whether to say the plan in simple, careful words or keep it implied and very gentle for children. Here's a softened, child-appropriate version.)

No child will grow up here

to threaten my power.

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Go.

Make sure of it.

(HEROD's expression is hardened. SCRIBE and CHIEF PRIEST look troubled but obey, exiting with him. Lights dim on that side, and we shift to the stable/home area with MARY, JOSEPH, and child JESUS, now slightly "older"—maybe a preschool-age child or still baby, depending on your cast.)

Narrator:

But even as dark plans formed in Herod's heart,

God was watching over His Son.

That night, Joseph had another dream.

(JOSEPH lies down to sleep. Lights dim to "night." An ANGEL appears nearby.)

Angel (urgent but kind):

Joseph, get up.

Take the child and His mother,

and escape to Egypt.

Stay there until I tell you,

because Herod wants to harm the child.

(JOSEPH gasps "awake," sits up.)

Joseph (to himself):

Egypt?

That's far from home…

But when God says "go,"

we go.

(He hurries to MARY.)

Joseph (gently shaking her awake):

Mary…

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I know you're tired,

but we have to leave—tonight.

Mary (rising, concerned):

What happened?

Joseph:

God sent another angel.

Herod is in danger of hurting the child.

We must go to Egypt,

and God will bring us back in His time.

(MARY looks at JESUS, then looks back at JOSEPH and nods.)

Mary:

If God is leading…

we'll follow.

Even if the road is long.

(STABLE ANIMALS and any remaining SHEPHERDS help them gather simple bags or props, making a quick, gentle fuss.)

Shepherd 1:

You're leaving? So soon?

Joseph:

We don't want to go…

but we'll go where God sends us.

Shepherd 2:

We'll be praying for you.

Shepherd 3 (to little JESUS):

We'll never forget You.

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(They wave. MARY, JOSEPH, and JESUS begin their "journey," walking slowly past the audience or across the stage. Soft, minor-key instrumental music plays.)

Narrator:

The newborn King became a refugee,

leaving home because of danger.

God's Son knows what it feels like

to be far from home…

to walk roads that are uncertain.

But God never lost track of them.

He watched over them in Egypt.

And when the time was right,

He called them back.

(Lights dim on the traveling family. If desired, you can show a short "return" moment—Joseph again hearing an angel, then bringing the family back to a "Nazareth" sign.)

Narrator:

In time, they returned to Nazareth—

the town where it all began.

There, the little boy Jesus

would grow up.

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SCENE 5 – THE CHILD JESUS: GROWING IN WISDOM

(Simple "Nazareth home" setup. A bench or low table. YOUNG JESUS, about 8–12 years old if possible, sits with JOSEPH working with wood, or with MARY learning/praying.)

Narrator:

Jesus did not stay a baby in a manger.

He learned to walk, to talk, to work, to read.

He obeyed His parents,

helped in their home,

and grew in wisdom and in favor

with God and people.

(JOSEPH hands a simple tool or piece of wood to YOUNG JESUS.)

Joseph:

Hold it like this—

Yes, that's it.

Young Jesus:

Like this, Father?

Joseph (smiling):

Exactly.

You're learning quickly.

Mary (calling from the side):

Come, it's time to eat!

(They gather at a simple "table"—could be just sitting together on stage.)

Mary (to Jesus):

The neighbor's family is struggling.

They don't have enough bread this week.

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I think we should share some of ours.

Young Jesus (nodding):

Yes, Mother.

They're our neighbors.

And God gives us enough to share.

(YOUNG JESUS helps pass imaginary bread.)

Narrator:

Even as a child,

Jesus showed kindness

and obedience.

He didn't use His power

to make life easy.

He used His love

to make life richer

for others.

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OPTIONAL MINI-SCENE: JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AT 12

This can be included or skipped depending on time and cast.

(Set the Temple again. YOUNG JESUS (now about 12) is seated with TEACHERS. MARY and JOSEPH enter later.)

Narrator:

When Jesus was about twelve years old,

His parents brought Him to Jerusalem for a special festival.

On the way home, they thought He was with relatives.

But after a day, they realized…

He was missing.

(MARY and JOSEPH hurry onstage.)

Mary (worried):

Joseph! Have you seen Him?

Joseph:

I thought He was with your cousins!

Mary:

No—

We have to go back!

Narrator:

After three long days of searching,

they found Him… in the Temple.

(They see JESUS sitting among TEACHERS.)

Teacher 1:

This boy asks such deep questions…

Teacher 2:

And His answers!

It's like He understands God's Word

from the inside out.

(MARY and JOSEPH rush toward JESUS.)

Mary (relieved, but emotional):

Son!

Why have You treated us like this?

Your father and I have been so worried.

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Young Jesus (gentle, not rude):

Why were you searching for Me?

Didn't you know

I had to be in My Father's house?

(MARY looks puzzled, then thoughtful. She doesn't respond angrily, just processing.)

Narrator:

They didn't fully understand…

but Mary stored these words in her heart.

Jesus returned home with them

and obeyed them.

He was getting ready—

growing, learning,

until the day His public work would begin.

(Scene fades. YOUNG JESUS exits with MARY and JOSEPH.)

SCENE 6 – A MODERN CHURCH, TODAY

(Now we shift clearly into the present. A simple "church lobby" or "Sunday school room" setup. Chairs, maybe a simple sign that says "Welcome." MODERN KIDS in regular clothes: KID 1, KID 2, KID 3, KID 4, plus an ADULT LEADER or TEACHER.)

Narrator:

The story of Jesus

didn't end when He grew up.

He taught, healed, forgave,

died for our sins,

rose from the dead,

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and sent His followers

to share the good news with the world.

Today, the story continues

in places that look… a lot like this.

(Lights up on MODERN KIDS and LEADER.)

Leader:

Okay, everyone,

before we head home,

I want to ask you something simple.

We've talked about the shepherds,

the wise men,

Mary and Joseph,

Simeon and Anna,

and baby Jesus in the manger.

But here's my question:

What does *good news*

look like in *our* lives?

(KIDS think for a moment.)

Kid 1:

Good news is…

knowing I'm not alone.

When I'm scared at school,

I remember that Jesus is with me.

Leader:

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That's beautiful.

Yes—Emmanuel.

God with us.

Kid 2:

Good news is that

even when I mess up,

Jesus can forgive me.

I don't have to pretend

I'm perfect.

Leader:

Right.

The angels didn't say,

"Good news for perfect people."

They said…? *(gestures)*

Kid 2 (with a grin):

Good news for *all* people.

Kid 3:

Good news is…

we can help others.

Like when our church

gives food to families at Christmas

or visits people who are sick.

Leader:

Yes!

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The story doesn't stop with us.

We get to be like the shepherds

and share what we've seen and heard.

Kid 4 (shyly):

I don't talk much…

but I like to invite my friends to church.

I guess that's kind of like

the wise men, right?

Trying to bring people

closer to Jesus?

Leader (smiling):

Exactly.

You're helping others

follow the light.

(KIDS nod. LEADER looks out toward the audience.)

Leader (to audience):

The angels said,

"I bring you good news of great joy

that will be for *all people*."

And now, we

are part of sharing that news.

(KIDS stand together. Some may hold simple props: a Bible, a small flashlight, a heart cut-out.)

Narrator:

The same God who guided shepherds and wise men,

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who spoke to Joseph in dreams,

who kept promises to Simeon and Anna…

That same God

is speaking to hearts today—

in this very congregation.

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SCENE 7 – A FAMILY AT HOME: BRINGING THE STORY INTO REAL LIFE

(A simple "living room" scene: a couch or chairs, a small table, maybe a paper Christmas tree on the wall. FAMILY: MOM, DAD, CHILD 1, CHILD 2—or any mix that suits your church. They are just coming home from the Christmas service.)

Narrator:

Sometimes we hear the story at church,

but we forget that it is meant

to follow us home.

Let's visit one family

on Christmas week.

(FAMILY enters and "settles in.")

Mom:

Okay, everyone—

coats on hooks, shoes by the door—

no, not in the middle of the floor.

Child 1 (laughing):

That play tonight was so fun!

I liked the angels the best.

They were so bright!

Child 2:

I liked the sheep

and the kids who played the animals.

They were kind of silly…

in a good way.

Dad:

I liked the part where

everyone ended up together

around the manger—

shepherds, wise men,

Mary and Joseph,

angels…

Everyone standing together

because of Jesus.

Mom (sitting with a sigh, but smiling):

I liked that too.

Sometimes our house feels

like everyone is going in different directions.

But tonight, we were all

in the same place,

hearing the same story.

Child 1:

Why did they say

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“good news for the whole congregation”?

Is it really for *all* of us?

Dad:

What do you think?

Child 2 (thinking):

Well…

- It’s good news for me
  because I get scared at night,
  and now I know
  Jesus is with me in the dark.
- It’s good news for you and Mom
  because you get tired and stressed,
  and He can help you.

(Mom and Dad exchange a amused, knowing look.)

Mom:

That’s very true.

Child 1:

Is it good news

for people who don’t even like church?

Dad:

Yes.

Jesus came for them too.

He came for people who are close to God

and people who feel very far away.

He came for kind people

and for people who are still learning

how to be kind.

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Mom:

He came for people who make mistakes—

which is… all of us.

(CHILD 2 picks up a children's Bible or simple leaflet from the play.)

Child 2:

Can we read the story again?

The one from Luke?

Mom:

I'd love that.

You read the part about the angels.

(CHILD 2 reads a short paraphrase, or simply says the key line.)

Child 2 (reading/paraphrased):

"Don't be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy

that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David

a Savior has been born to you;

He is Christ the Lord."

(They pause.)

Child 1:

Can we pray

for someone else to hear that news too?

Maybe my friend

who doesn't really know Jesus?

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Dad:

That is a wonderful idea.

(FAMILY bows heads. Short, simple prayer.)

Dad (praying):

Lord Jesus,

thank You for coming to us.

Help us to share Your good news

with our friends, our neighbors,

and anyone who feels alone this Christmas.

Amen.

All:

Amen.

Narrator:

That's how the story grows—

from hearts

to homes,

to neighborhoods,

to the whole world.

(Lights fade slowly on the family scene.)

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SCENE 8 – THE CONGREGATION'S TURN: "WE CARRY THE LIGHT"

(All CAST gradually returns to the stage: NATIVITY CHARACTERS, ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, WISE MEN, TEMPLE CHARACTERS, MODERN KIDS, FAMILY, LEADER. They form a big semi-circle or fill the front area. Soft but hopeful music begins underneath.)

Narrator:

From Bethlehem's manger

to our church building today,

the message has not changed:

God so loved the world

that He gave His only Son,

that whoever believes in Him

will not perish

but have eternal life.

Tonight, the Good News

stands in front of us…

and invites us to respond.

(Some cast members step forward briefly with short one-line "echoes" of the story. Keep these lines short so children can memorize.)

Shepherd 1:

We heard the angels

and hurried to Jesus.

Wise Man 1:

We followed the star

and bowed before the King.

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Simeon:

I waited many years—

and God kept His promise.

Anna:

I told everyone in the Temple:

“Hope is here!”

Mary:

I said “yes” to God,

even when I didn’t understand everything.

Joseph:

I followed God’s direction,

even when it meant changing my plans.

Modern Kid 1:

I remember

Jesus is with me at school.

Modern Kid 2:

I know He forgives me

when I mess up.

Modern Kid 3:

I can help others

because He helped me.

Modern Kid 4:

I can invite friends

to meet Jesus too.

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(They step back into the group.)

Narrator (to congregation):

Now, congregation—

it's *your* turn.

If you are able,

I invite you to stand where you are.

(Pause while congregation stands, if desired.)

You don't have to know all the answers.

You don't have to feel perfect.

The angels' message

is for your heart too:

Good news of great joy…

for all people.

Let's say it together

one last time.

Narrator: Good news…

Cast & Congregation: For all people!

Again—

Narrator: Good news…

All: For all people!

One more time—

like the angels filling the sky.

Narrator: Good news…

All: For all people!

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SCENE 9 – FINAL CAROL & CLOSING BLESSING

*(Music swells into a familiar carol—**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**, **"Joy to the World"**, or **"Go Tell It on the Mountain"**, depending on your church's style. CAST leads, CONGREGATION sings.)*

Option:

- Verse 1 – Cast & Congregation
- Verse 2 – Children's Choir or Kids
- Verse 3 – Everyone together

(After the song, the music softens or stops. NARRATOR steps forward one final time.)

Narrator:

Tonight, we have watched the story unfold:

- Promises whispered by prophets,
- Angels lighting up the sky,
- A baby born in a manger,
- Shepherds and wise men bowing low,
- A child growing in wisdom and grace,
- People—long ago *and today*—
  opening their hearts to good news.

This Christmas,

may you know that:

- You are *seen* by God, like the shepherds,
- You are *invited* to worship, like the wise men,
- You are *welcomed* in God's plan, like Mary and Joseph,
- You are *not forgotten* in your waiting, like Simeon and Anna,
- And you are *called* to share this love,
  just like the first followers of Jesus.

From all of us here—

kids and youth,

angels and shepherds,

Mary and Joseph,

wise men and families,

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modern-day brothers and sisters in Christ—

(Gestures to cast.)

Narrator & Cast (together):

May you carry the good news with you…

and share it with the whole world.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

(CAST waves. If your church does candlelight, this is a perfect moment: simple background music, candles lifted as the lights dim to a warm glow. Hold a few moments of quiet, then fade to black.)

[END OF PART 2 / END OF PLAY]

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