

Go Tell It!

by Mary Evelyn McCurdy

Speaking Roles:

Baker
Fisherman
Villager 1
Innkeeper
Traveler
Joseph
Mary
Shepherd 1
Shepherd 2
Angel of the Lord
Heavenly Host

Additional Roles:

Extra Villagers
Extra Shepherds
Sheep
Stable Animals

Sets and Props:

No set pieces are required except a manger. Letting the audience use their imagination is fine. If you would like to make a sign for the inn and a simple stable, cardboard is a good material. The manger can be as simple as a wooden crate or a cardboard box with lines drawn on it to make it look like it is made of wood. The baker and fisherman should have bread and fish to sell.

Costumes:

Simple Bible costumes. Mary will need some stuffing under her costume for the first scene. For the sheep, you can get plain white T-shirts and draw small curly-qs on them with a black permanent or fabric marker. You can make sheep headbands using white poster board. Cut a band about two inches wide and long enough to go around the child's head. Cut two ear shapes and staple them to the band. Glue cotton balls on the ears. Put tape over the exposed staples so that they do not scratch the child's head. You can make similar costumes for the stable animals (such as a donkey, horse, and/or goat). Long ribbons of silver tinsel makes great halos for the angels.

Suggestion for songs:

Distribute copies of the lyrics of the songs so the audience can sing along with the cast.

(Baker and Fisherman are selling their wares. Villagers are going back and forth, buying bread and fish and silently talking to each other. Innkeeper is sweeping outside his inn.)

BAKER: Bread for sale! Hot from the oven! Buy it here!

FISHERMAN: Fresh fish! Caught just this morning!

VILLAGER: I have never seen Bethlehem so crowded! I wonder if Caesar Augustus realized what kind of commotion he would cause when he said everyone in his empire had to go to his hometown to be counted.

(Traveler walks up to the Villagers.)

TRAVELER: Do you know where I can find a room for the night?

VILLAGER: There's an inn over there. I don't know if you'll find a room, though.

(Traveler continues to the Innkeeper.)

TRAVELER: Excuse me. Are you the innkeeper?

INNKEEPER: Yes, what do you want?

TRAVELER: Do you have room inside for any more?

INNKEEPER *(sighs)*: I suppose I can squeeze you in. But you're the last one!

TRAVELER: Thank you!

INNKEEPER *(talking to Baker and Fisherman)*: You wouldn't believe how crowded it is in there! Business has never been this good! I'd better get back to work. Good night.

BAKER and FISHERMAN: Good night.

(Innkeeper enters the inn. Mary and Joseph enter. Villager exits.)

JOSEPH: Do you know where we might find a room for the night?

BAKER: There's an inn over there, but I think it's full.

JOSEPH: I'll give it a try.

(Joseph and Mary walk to the inn. Joseph knocks and the innkeeper answers.)

JOSEPH: Excuse me, sir, but do you have any room in your inn?

INNKEEPER: I'm sorry, but it's already overcrowded in here.

JOSEPH: But sir, my wife is about to have a baby!

INNKEEPER: A baby!? Well, I suppose you do need a place to stay. You can sleep with the animals. It might not be the cleanest place and it doesn't smell very good, but she'll have a roof over her head.

MARY: With the animals?

INNKEEPER: It's the best I can offer you.

MARY: I suppose I'd rather have this baby on a bed of hay than on this dirty street.

INNKEEPER: Right this way.

(Joseph and Mary follow the innkeeper off stage. Baker and Fisherman also exit. All sing.)

O little town of Bethlehem! How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

(Shepherds and sheep enter.)

SHEPHERD 1: Ahh, there's nothing like settling down to a peaceful night of sleep after a long day. Sure has been quiet today. No wolves. No lost lambs. Everything calm and ordinary.

SHEPHERD 2: What's that?

SHEPHERD 1: Where?

SHEPHERD 2: Over there! Don't you see it?

SHEPHERD 1: Whoa! What kind of a light is that? It's coming this way! It's getting brighter!

(Angel of the Lord enters. Shepherds are afraid.)

ANGEL OF THE LORD: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah! This is how you will find the baby: He will be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

(Heavenly Host enters.)

Heavenly Host: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, our newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

(Angel of the Lord and Heavenly Host exit.)

SHEPHERD 1: Did you just see what I saw?

SHEPHERD 2: Of course I did! What's a Messiah?

SHEPHERD 1: The One who will save us! The One we have waited for all our lives! Don't just sit there! Let's go to Bethlehem and find the baby! Come on!

(Shepherds and sheep exit.)

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

(Joseph, Mary, and stable animals enter the stable and gather around the manger. Shepherds and sheep soon arrive at the stable.)

SHEPHERD 1: May we come in? Some angels just came and told us we would find the Messiah here.

MARY: Yes, please come in.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

MARY: I'm glad you came to see Him. The more people who know about our baby, the better. He is going to make all our lives worth living. An angel came to me nine months ago and told me He was coming.

JOSEPH: An angel told me He was coming, too.

SHEPHERD 1: What is His name?

MARY: Jesus.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

SHEPHERD 1: We've got to tell everyone about Him! Come on!

(Baker, Fisherman, and Villager enter. Shepherds go to them.)

SHEPHERD 1: The Messiah is here!

BAKER: Really?

SHEPHERD 1: His name is Jesus! He was just born tonight!

FISHERMAN: Where?

SHEPHERD 1: He's lying in a manger right over here!

(Baker, Fisherman, and Villager follow Shepherd 1 to the stable. Shepherd 2 knocks on the door of the inn. Innkeeper and Traveler look out.)

SHEPHERD 2: Come and see Baby Jesus!

(Innkeeper and Traveler follow Shepherd 2 to the stable.)

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, come swiftly and run!
Christ is born, tell the folk of the village;
Jesus is sleeping in His cradle.
Ah! ah! beautiful is the mother!
Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!

Hasten now, good folk of the village;
Hasten now the Christ Child to see.
You will find Him asleep in the manger;
Quietly come and whisper softly,
Hush! hush! Peacefully now He slumbers.
Hush! hush! Peacefully now He sleeps.

MARY: This Baby is the One the prophets told us was coming hundreds of years ago--the One we have waited for all our lives.

VILLAGER: The Wonderful Counselor! The Mighty God! The Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace! After all these years of waiting, here He is!

SHEPHERD 1: The Prince of Peace should be lying in a royal palace instead of in a manger.

VILLAGER: I don't think He minds. Look how peaceful He is.

SHEPHERD 1: I hope He can bring that same peace to me.

MARY: He can. He can do anything. The angel who told me this Baby was coming said, "Nothing is impossible with God."

SHEPHERD 1: Nothing is impossible with God?

MARY: Nothing.

SHEPHERD 1: Now that we have seen Him, what should we do?

JOSEPH: Tell everyone about Him!

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light!

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels' chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth!

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed holy morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

Source: ChristianMusicalTheatre.com

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