

God Is With Us – Everywhere!

A Rhyming Nativity Play by Fay Rowland

Suitable for live or virtual performance



The Script

Scene 3 By the Manger

Narr So to Bethlehem they travelled,
 ('cos of Joseph's family tree)
 walked for days and days to get there.
 Were they tired? Guess we'll see.
 [shrugging shoulders]

Joseph *[walking on the spot]*
 Nearly there now, Mary darling,
 won't be long till supper time.
 We can stay with Bob, my uncle,
 in his guest-room, you'll be fine.

Mary *[walking on the spot, leaning backwards]*
 Really hope so, Joseph dearest.
 Baby's nearly on his way.
 When we get there, call the midwife.
 Think you'll be a dad today!
 [patting tummy]

Narr Uncle Bob had made it lovely
 but the room was very small.
 Mary much preferred it downstairs,
 just beside the donkey's stall.

 So that night, as stars were twinkling
 Mary's tiny babe was born.
 Joseph filled the donkey's trough with
 hay and blankets, soft and warm.

Joseph *[picking up baby Jesus doll]*
 Can I hold him? Will he like me?
 Do you think he'll call me 'Dad'?
 [eeew!]
 God's own son just wet his nappy.
 Mary, dear, you're looking sad.
 [noticing Mary]

Mary *[looking at baby Jesus doll]*
 I was thinking, will he be a
 carpenter like you, you reckon?
 Making chairs and tables, or does
 something very diff'rent beckon?

 [wondering]
 Will he grow to be like you, or
 will he take his Father's job?
 Nestling in your arms I see the
 face of human, soul of God.

Narr As they gazed in awe and wonder
 at their baby, sleeping sound,
 [looking around and above]
 silently, beyond their vision,
 all of heaven gathered round.

 God no longer just in glory,
 but right here where humans dwell.
 [opening arms wide to include everybody]
 God made flesh to be God *With Us*,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 [bringing hands together to present baby]

Scene 4 Shepherds and Angels

Narr Meanwhile, on a distant hillside
 shepherds sat there, tending sheep
 Amos, Seth, apprentice Colin
 round the campfire, half asleep.

[yawning]

[suddenly awake]

All at once they heard some singing,
saw a brilliant shining light.

Gabriel arrived in glory.

[looking scared]

What a terrifying sight!

Amos *[looking up, scared]*
 What the flippin' 'eck is 'happenin'?
 Seth and Colin, wake up now!
 Aliens, I think, or Martians!
 Don't look at 'em! Hit the ground!
 [lying flat on face]

Gab *[apologetic]*
 Sorry, didn't mean to scare you
 (it's the halo, I suppose),
 but I have some information.
 'Scuse me while I strike a pose.

[in 'hero' pose]

Do not fear, I bring glad tidings!

News of joy for all the earth.

News about a special baby.

News about a new king's birth.

Seth Get up off the ground there Amos!
 There's no need to hide your face.

[doing 'face-palm']

Martians? It's a bloomin' angel,
not some dude from outer space!

Colin *[pointing upwards, amazed]*

Look, there's loads now, singing "Glory,
glory be to God on high.

Peace on Earth to everybody."

Angels filling all the sky.

Gab *[pointing sideways]*

Hurry now to David's city,
Bethlehem, and you will see
wrapped in cloth and in a manger,
Lord of all eternity.

[slight pause]

[in normal voice, not in rhythm]

Get a move on then!

Don't just stand there gawping.

Narr So the shepherds left the hillside,
 and, just off the city square,
 found the house with Mary, Joseph
 and the baby lying there.

Amos *[beaming]*
Ain't he lovely? Who'd have thought it?
Me, old Amos, standing here,
right before the Lord of Glory!
Makes me knees come over queer.
 [wobbling knees]

Seth *[scratching head]*
Feel I should have brought a present.
Could not think of what to bring.
What could shepherds give a baby
Lord of lords and King of kings?

Colin *[showing wool (cushion stuffing) or sheep]*
I brought wool for him to sleep on,
comfier than straw and hay.
 [sniffing wool / sheep!]
Smells of sheep I know, but this is
from the heart. Is that OK?
 [offering wool / sheep]

Narr So the shepherds knelt and worshipped,
 [looking down then looking up]
feet on Earth and eyes on heaven.
Jesus slept and snuggled softly
on the wool that they had given.

Sure, it had no fancy wrapping.
 [shaking head]
Ribbons? None, nor sparkly bow.
But the gift they gave to Jesus
 [nodding]
came with love instead of show.

So, as Colin, Seth and Amos
went back to their dozing sheep,
Jesus somehow went there with them,
giving presence they could keep.

