**CURTAINS CLOSED TO START**

**CLARA (takes center stage)**

This is the night, so gather around

And try your best to limit soundgggg

For if you’re still, you will here

A story that will top your year

Of faith and love and charity

The birth of one celebrity

Who doesn’t dance on MTV

And worries naught ‘bout being pretty

Who does not care for wealth or fame

And loves his followers all the same

This is how it all began

The story of a King who can

Not help but fill the world with love

With a little help from God above.

But …. Keep your voices at the ready

For we may have a song to steady

All our hearts and keep them strong

Like Joseph walking all night long

Or Mary with her heavy load

Or the Shepherds with their watchful code

But …

I have rambled in a way

And all of this is just to say

We bid you welcome, everyone

To the birthday story of God’s Holy Son

(MARY, JOSEPH and DONKEY enter from the left)

THE INNKEEPER  APPEARS, CARRYING A NO VACANCY SIGN

JOSEPH:

 Hello there, sir, we have come far. Might you have a room to rent?

INNKEEPER:

I’m afraid not, we’re full.  There’s just been a crazy rush of rooms. Maybe try down the street.

JOSEPH (SIGHS)

But we already have.

Are you sure, that you cannot help?

If you look, you will see, my  dear wife is with child

And we have been travelling so very far.

Just one small room, we don’t need your best

INNKEEPER

The Inn’s all booked. I can’t change that. What else can I do?

ANGEL 1 (appears beside him):

(Speaking to the audience)

I will just whisper in his ear

He won’t even know I’m near

Cause I know that he does have space

Though it is an unusual place.

GABRIEL whispers into INKEEPER’S ear

INNKEEPER

I’ve got it. I know just the spot.

Though, as you say, it’s not the best.

Not a place I use for guests.

But you will be warm and safe and dry – if you don’t mind some animal company.

And a stable for your roof.

MARY

Thank you sir. Thanks you!  You’re very kind

I am sure we will get by just fine!

ANGEL #1:

Ah, there you see, the first part is set right

Our travellers have stopped at a stable this night

And that’s the star rising in the sky

So away to the fields, I now must fly

**SCENE TWO HYMN: OH, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**CURTAINS OPEN**

Curtain opens on stable scene, the animals are there, along with SHEEP, DONKEY, AND COW  #1 AND COW #2

COW #1:

Moo! What is going on?

Why is everyone in song?

COW #2:

 Hush! Can’t you see we have new guests.

COW #1:

Guest! Ugh. Udder. Ugh.

DONKEY #1:

 Ahem.

Mr. Hee-haw at your service.

From Nazareth I have come.

Yes, I know, that’s pretty far for some.

But now that my work here is done

Autographs, anyone?

*Donkey shakes hands with everyone. Takes spot beside the COWS*

COW #1 (ROLLING EYES)

You donkeys are all the same.

Mr. Hee Haw indeed. That’s quite the name.

Just keep your chomps off my hay.

SHEEP #1 (SAIGE):

 You’re such a grump.  If it’s hay they need, they can have mine.

SHEEP #2:

 And Mine!

SHEEP #3:

And Mine!

Sheep #4:

And Mine!

Cow #2:

And Mine.

Now that’s settled, let’s give a greeting. Guests! Imagine! This is the most exciting thing that’s happen around here in ages.

Cow #1:

 So this is how it is to be!

I see no one will listen to me. Oh well,  I give up.

If they are here to stay,

They might as well

Consider this home.

**SONG CHORUS: Consider Yourself**

ANGEL:

Bright Stars, so all is going to plan

Right down to every sheep and man

A stable is a strange setting, I know

But is this is how it was meant to go.

JOSEPH

Mary you must get some sleep. Lay down your head and rest your feet.

It’s hard to believe we are here at last In Bethlehem.

In fact, everything about these last few weeks is hard to believe.

MARY

I know, Joseph. We are in quite a spot. And I don’t mean just this stable.

Can you imagine angels appearing to us?

JOSEPH:

Tell me again Mary, how yours appears, I never get tired of hearing it.

MARY:

 Well, as you know, I was sweeping in the courtyard, and suddenly an angel appeared before me.

And the angel said:

ANGEL #3:

Be not afraid, Mary. For God has a secret plan for you.

Cow #1:

 Angels and secret plans. Now I have heard everything!

All the sheep, and animals:

Shhhh!!

MARY:

And I thought: God? A plan for me? Who even knew that God knew who I was?

ANGEL #3:

You will have a baby and your baby will be king.

And about his good works, all the world will sing.

MARY:

 That was a lot to take it. But the angle said I should be brave, and have faith and it would work out. And that is what I decided to do.

COW #2:

That’s so brave.

COW#1:

Even I have to admit it, that is pretty gutsy.

What about your angel, Joseph?

JOSEPH:

Well, Mary, I won’t lie. The news that a baby was on the way was not the best day of my life. I thought we would have to break up.

COW #2:

 Break-up! That’s horrible!

COW #1:

  I knew this was a tragedy!

All the sheep and animals: SHHHH!!

JOSEPH:

 I didn’t want to. But I didn’t think I had a choice. And then the Angel came, and spoke to me:

ANGEL #3:

Joseph, you must stand by Mary, who has been chosen by God.

JOSEPH:

And so that’s what I did.

THE SHEEP:

Aaaaaw!

COW#2:

How romantic!

COW #1:

 More like a comedy! Imagine a king being born among us lot.

JOSEPH:

And so here we are. The angle said our son will be a king. This doesn’t seem much of a birthplace for a future king does it? I am sorry I couldn’t do better.

MARY:

Don’t worry, Joseph. We have gotten this far, haven’t we?

**Song: IS IT I, LORD? (I THE LORD, OF SEA AND SKY WITH SPECIAL LYRICS.)**

ANGEL

And so that night, it came to be

That in the hay was born a baby

In the dark, the animals kept him warm

The manger was a port in the storm

**CURTAINS CLOSE**

**HYMN: WHAT CHILD IS THIS**

**CURTAINS OPEN**

COW #2:

 Oooh, a Baby! Look at his little hands. His tiny feet.

COW#1:

 Blech, Whatever. Let me see. Let me see! …. Oooh, a baby! His little hands. His little feet.

COW#2:

This a special night indeed!

**SONG: Oh what a special night.**

ANGEL:

But our tale is not done just yet.

We will have more travellers yet.

Here they are now: the shepherds brave.

Come to see the little babe.

COW#1

 (seeing the shepherd): Holy Cow! We should have sold tickets. Who this? Mind the baby, please.

SHEPHERD (KNEELS)

Dear lady, pardon me, we have come to see your newborn son.

I am as surprised to you.

We sat in our fields with our flocks that night.

And in the sky, appeared a choir of angels, and the angel said:

ANGEL #3:

Don’t be afraid. Good News!

It’s joy for all you.

A baby is born to save the day.

Leave your flock and go this way.

Follow the star, and you will see.

The gift of God’s divinity.

SHEPHERD:

Truth be told, we were freaked out. But you don’t get directions like that every day. So really, there was only one option.

**SONG: Let’s go! Let’s go!**

COW #2:

Isn’t it wonderful?  I wonder who else is coming.

COW #1:

 You think there’s more on the way. I guess we better make room. I have a feeling this a place that everyone should consider home.

ANGEL:

And yes, indeed, more visitors are on their way

The Wise Men from the East will come to stay

And you, and you and everyone will find some space

In this very special Christmas place

In the end, that is the reason

Why we  celebrate this season

To open doors to everyone

To the celebrate the birth of God’s new son

For what is Christmas, if not a sign

That hope and love and joy is thine!

**SONG: Away in a Manger**

**We wish you a merry Christmas!**

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**