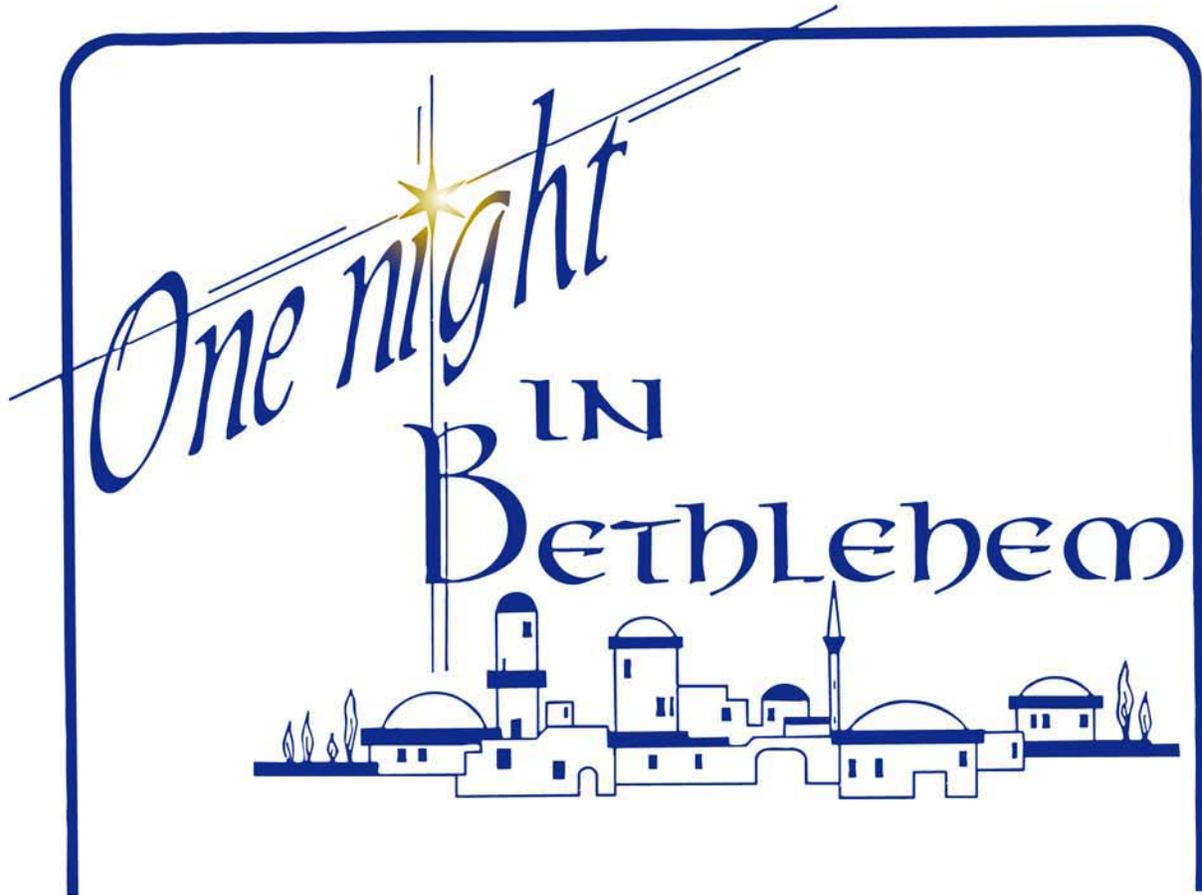


ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM



**A WORSHIP PROGRAM
FOR PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

INTRODUCTION

This worship service is intended for preschool and kindergarten children and may be presented as part of a regular worship service or as a stand alone program for parents and grandparents.

Theme: The sights and sounds of Bethlehem

Time: Approximately 20 minutes

Parts: Children
Teacher
Pastor or Reader
Assembly

About the CD: This CD is to be used in your computer for the print materials and in your CD player for the song.

About the Songs: IMPORTANT! This CD includes two songs (4 tracks) suitable to be played on your CD player. Track 1 is the song *"One Night in Bethlehem"* (vocal). We suggest this be listened to by the assembly as a processional or at the beginning (or end) of the program. It sets the title theme. Track 2 is *"One Night in Bethlehem"* (instrumental). This is included only if you want to teach the song to your children or have a soloist sing the song at the beginning of the program. Track 3 is the song *"Mary Held Her Baby"* (vocal) to teach the children the song. Track 4 is the song *"Mary Held Her Baby"* (instrumental) for your performance.

What You Get with This Program:

Full printed program in PDF and Word (reproducible)

Child's Text Sheet in PDF and Word (You may send this home with the children to receive help in memorizing. This way you need not let the parents see the entire service)

Program Cover Art sized for 5½" x 8½" folders in PDF and Word

Sign Templates (You may enlarge these words on your copier)

Songs: This CD includes sing-along and instrumental music for *"Mary Held Her Baby"* and the for *"One Night in Bethlehem"* (Intended to be played for the assembly.)

Sheet Music is also provided for *both*.

You have permission to make copies of any print material, sheet music or CD music.
However, we ask that this material NOT be passed from church to church.

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ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

We Listen (Listen quietly as the song *"One Night in Bethlehem"* is played. This will set the theme for the service).

Christmas Prayer by Pastor: Heavenly Father, on the first Christmas in the little town of Bethlehem, you sent your one and only Son to be our Savior. We thank you for this most precious gift. Help us to know our Lord and Savior in the Baby of Bethlehem. Let the news from Bethlehem gladden our hearts and give us renewed hope. Use our small voices to spread the true message of peace on earth to all people. We pray in the name of Bethlehem's Child, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Teacher: "In those days Caesar Augustus issues a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married and was expecting a child." (Luke 2:1-5)

PART ONE

Child Holds Sign: THE SETTING

All Children: *Let's travel into Bethlehem
To see what we can find.
It looks like any other town,
But God had plans in mind.*

Pastor (Reader): Bethlehem was just a sleepy little village, with a few hundred people. Yet it soon became the most important place with the most important stable that was visited by the most important young couple, who gave birth to the most important baby ever born. The name "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread"

Many Bible people in the Bible had a connection with the town of Bethlehem.

Child: *Rachel*

Pastor (Reader): Yes, Rachel was buried in Bethlehem and her tomb is still there today. We read that Rachel wept for her children when the young boys were killed by the wicked Herod as he searched for the baby Jesus.

Child: *Ruth*

Pastor (Reader): Ruth had seen Rachel's tomb many times because she also lived in Bethlehem.

Child: *David*

Pastor (Reader): Next to Jesus, David was perhaps the most famous person to live in Bethlehem. Because David was from Bethlehem, the town was nicknamed the "Town of David".

Children Sing: "Mary Held Her Baby" (with hand signs)

(Verse one: Children rock a baby in their arms)

Mary held her baby dear,
Nestled him so very near,
Smiled and gently whispered clear,
"I'm holding you with two hands."

(Verse two: Children fold hands and hold chest high)

Shepherds wakened in their sleep
Ran and left their flock of sheep;
For their silence could not keep
To worship him with two hands.

(Verse three: Children holds hands outstretched)

And from countries far away
Wise Men brought their gifts to pay
Tribute to the babe that day;
They offered gifts with two hands.

(Verse four: Children raise palms up as when pastor gives blessing)

Now I know that baby small
Sleeping soundly in the stall,
Would forgive the sins of all
When nails would pierce his two hands.

(Verse 5: Children hold out hands with palms up)

So tonight (today) I clearly see
All the things Christ did for me.
I will fall down on my knees
And give to him my two hands.

PART TWO

Child Holds Sign: THE SIGHTS

Teacher: "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6,7)

All Children: *Now open wide your eyes to see
The manger bed so small
'Cause there the Prince of Peace is laid,
The One who loves us all.*

Pastor (Reader): Our story would be empty if it was just about a city. We're here to celebrate what happened there. That's what's really important. We don't know a lot about the buildings of Bethlehem, but we do know there was an inn that was filled with people. We also know there was a stable where God performed a great and wonderful miracle. In that stable God became a baby. The plan for that baby was to grow up to be a man, and to be nailed to a cross. The purpose of that plan was to rescue us from the punishment of sin. What a wonderful plan that was.

Assembly Sing: "Silent Night"

ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

CHILD'S TEXT SHEET

(This page includes the text for the children to memorize. Reproduce and send home.)

Let's travel into Bethlehem
To see what we can find.
It looks like any other town,
But God had plans in mind.

Now open wide your eyes to see
the manger bed so small
"Cause there the Prince of Peace is laid,
The One who loves us all.

Hush! Now open wide your ears
To hear the nightly sound.
A baby cries but that's not all,
There's singing all around.

From Bethlehem God sends his love
To all the earth below..
His only Son was sent for us
Because he loves us so!

MARY HELD HER BABY ***(See hand signs in text)***

Mary held her baby dear,
Nestled him so very near,
Smiled and gently whispered clear,
"I'm holding you with two hands."

Shepherds wakened in their sleep
Ran and left their flock of sheep;
For their silence could not keep
To worship him with two hands.

And from countries far away
Wise Men brought their gifts to pay
Tribute to the babe that day;
They offered gifts with two hands.

Now I know that baby small
Sleeping soundly in the stall,
Would forgive the sins of all
When nails would pierce his two hands.

So tonight (today) I clearly see
All the things Christ did for me.
I will fall down on my knees
And give to him my two hands.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in they 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 wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Arranged by
Charles Cushinery

Mary Held Her Baby

Words and Music by
Reynold R. Kremer

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 2/4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines.

System 1: Chords: F, Bb, C7, F, F, Bb. Lyrics: Mar - y held her ba - by dear, Nest - led him so

System 2: Chords: C7, F, F, C7, F, Bb. Lyrics: ver - y near, Smiled and gent - ly whis - pered clear,

System 3: Chords: Bb, F, C7, Bb, 1 F. Lyrics: "I'm hold - ing you with two hands."

hands."

2) Shepherds wakened in their sleep
 Ran and left their flock of sheep;
 For their silence could not keep
 To worship him with two hands.

3) And from countries far away
 Wise men brought their gifts to pay
 Tribute to the babe that day;
 They offered gifts with two hands.

4) Now I know that baby small
 Sleeping soundly in the stall,
 Would forgive the sins of all
 When nails would pierce his two hands.

5) So tonight I clearly see
 All the things Christ did for me.
 I will fall down on my knees
 And give to him my two hands.



Mary held her baby dear,
Nestled him so very near,
Smiled and gently whispered clear,
"I'm holding you with two hands."



So tonight I clearly see
All the things Christ did for me.
I will fall down on my knees
And give to him my two hands.