

CHRISTMAS, ON PURPOSE

Candlelight Nativity

Here is a quiet, simple way to bring the Christmas story to life.

All the song lyrics are included in the pages that follow. Most of the script is from the King James Bible, with only a few additions. You can have a single narrator or take turns reading. Feel free to print as many copies as you need so everyone can participate.

Begin with all the candles in place but unlit. As you tell about the Christ child's birth through scripture and song, you will light each candle to represent different characters and events.

I hope this candlelight nativity brings the light of Christ into your home as it has to mine.

♥ Jen

Supplies

- 2 blue candles, one slightly taller
(Mary + Joseph)
- 1 white votive (Baby Jesus)
- 2-3 green candles (shepherds)
- 3 silver tapers (angels)
- 3 burgundy candles (Wise Men)
- Matches or lighter

NOTE: The colors are merely suggestions to make each character easily identifiable. I prefer to use all white candles of different sizes. You can adapt your candlelight nativity set however you like so it's unique to you and your family.

Hymns

- Joy to the World
- O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Away In a Manger
- The First Noel
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- Far, Far Away On Judea's Plains
- With Wondering Awe
- Silent Night

Scriptures

- Luke 2: 1-20
- Matthew 2: 1-11
- John 1:4-5
- John 8:12

Candlelight Nativity Lyrics

Joy to the World

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.

Away in a Manger

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

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the
sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

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 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

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, noel, noel, noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, noel, noel noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Candlelight Nativity Lyrics

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 th'angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

With Wondering Awe

With wond'ring awe the Wise Men saw
The star in heaven springing
And with delight, in peaceful night,
They heard the angels singing:
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to His name!

By light of star they traveled far
To seek the lowly manger
A humble bed wherein was laid
The wondrous little Stranger.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to His name!

Far Far Away On Judea's Plains

Far, far away on Judea's plains,
Shepherds of old heard the joyous strains:
Glory to God,
Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Sweet are these strains of redeeming love,
Message of mercy from heav'n above:
Glory to God,
Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Lord, with the angels we too would rejoice;
Help us to sing with the heart and voice:
Glory to God,
Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly host sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Candlelight Nativity Script

Sing "Joy to the World"

Light blue Mary + Joseph candles.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Light white votive for baby Jesus

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Sing "Away In a Manger"

Light green shepherd candles

And there were in that same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Light one silver angel candle

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Sing "The First Noel"

Light the other two angel candles

Candlelight Nativity Script

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

Sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told to them concerning this child.

Sing "Far Far Away On Judea's Plains"

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came Wise Men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Light burgundy Wise Men candles

And, lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went efore them till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Sing "With Wondering Awe"

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Snuff out Wise Men candles

Candlelight Nativity Script

And the shepherds returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Snuff out shepherd candles

And the angels returned to heaven.

Snuff out angel candles

And Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And many years later, she and Joseph, being mortal, came to the end of their earthly lives.

Snuff out Mary and Joseph candles

But the babe born in Bethlehem was the life and the light of men. His Light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not. He taught, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darknes, but shall have the light of life."

And that Light began to shine on a silent, holy night, all those years ago.

Sing "Silent Night"