

A script from



“The Manger is Empty”

by
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- What** The blessing of Christmas is that God put a baby in a manger. But the greater blessing is that the baby didn't stay there. Jesus is Emmanuel. God *with* us. And it's because the baby grew up and lived out God's rescue plan, it's because the manger is empty that we are able to have God with us even today!
Themes: Christmas, Baby, Jesus, Angels, Savior
- Who** Gabriel- Narrator
Angels- as many as you can or want to have
- When** The Night of Jesus' Birth
- Wear (Props)** Everyone dressed all in white. White shirts, pants, etc. or even choir robes. (I would do away with dressing everyone in wings and halos this time around ;) Or, if you can't do head to toe white, try a khaki or other neutral pant/bottom with white button downs or sweaters for all. If you can, dress Gabriel in a white blazer, button down, pants and shoes. He shouldn't really appear like an angel until further into the script when he is fully revealed as one.
- Why** Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:4-6, John 1:14, Matthew 1:23
- How** This can be as big or as small of a production as you'd like. If you go big, make sure you have someone directing and coordinating. Gabriel's lines should be delivered naturally and seem as if they're being read. This is coming from Gabriel's heart. Also, feel free to incorporate music.
- Time** Approximately 3-5 minutes

*The stage is dark. **Gabriel** enters under cover of darkness. In the dark we hear **Gabriel** begin to speak.*

Gabriel: Shhhhhhh... *(pause)* Shhhhhhh...*(pause)* Can you hear him? *(Pause)* Can you sense him? *(Pause as the lights begin to come up on the **Gabriel**)* Because he's here. He's so near to every one of us...right now. Listen.

The very faint, almost inaudible cry of a newborn begins almost inaudibly and builds to be quietly heard, as though some distance away. The lights slowly come up on a manger on stage. The soft baby cries begin to get a little louder so as to be completely audible, but not loud. Still soft and you almost have to strain to hear it.

Gabriel: A baby has just been born. He's hungry. For food. For justice. He's weary. Weary from his journey and the one to come. He's fighting sleep. With such a life to live ahead of him, his bright eyes want to be awake for it. His time on this earth will be short...but oh so sweet. Bittersweet. His holy body competes with the reality that he is an infant in need of his Mother. In need of his Father. Listen. He cries out for her tender touch. He cries out for his Father's guidance. He cries out for his people. For us. Because he hears *our* cries. Soon, the manger will empty.

*Over the faint cries we hear **Mary's** voice humming "Jesus Loves Me" as a lullaby to the crying infant.*

Gabriel: *(Speaking over Mary's humming)* A young mother draws her son close to soothe him. His tiny hands have spun moons and dotted the skies with shining stars. Now they grasp her by the finger. She caresses his soft cheek. She gazes into the eyes of a promise made. A promise kept for all mankind. *(The cries fade to nothing)* And he closes his eyes. He falls asleep. Because through him, there will be peace. Peace on earth this baby brings. Though humbly he came, an animal's feeding trough his bed, he will sit far above all earthly kings when the manger is empty.

Mary's humming fades.

Gabriel: *(Growing in some hushed intensity)* Shhhhhhh...the night is dark, but not frightening, and far from resting. Can you feel it? The sky and its celestials are trembling in their places. Creation braces its very foundation as the world awaits its reconciliation.

Listen. You're not trying. Really...try to feel it. *(Pause)* There is some holy change in the weather stirring the leaves on their trees and stirring the souls of men. A great Spirit that once moved over the nothingness before creation is moving the waters into whispers that are speaking that something is coming. Something is finally here. Something is going to change. Something *has* changed and is poised to wipe away every tear and frighten off every fear and the holy veil will tear and God will live...*(pointing to his chest)* in here when the manger empties.

*Over the next few lines the **Angels** enter swiftly and quietly into the space under cover of darkness. Consider putting them down the aisles and/or buttressing the walls with them, standing them in the front row of the balconies and or suddenly filling the choir loft with them!*

To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at SkitGuys.com!

ENDING:

Gabriel: *(very loud and with great joy and excitement with hands raised in jubilation)* We were made to praise him! All creation, praise our God!!!

*All ad lib very loud and with great joy and animated faces all the **Angels** and **Gabriel** shout the following lines at random. It is a beautiful cacophony of praise!*

"Holy! Holy! Holy!"

"Glory to God in the highest!"

"He has come!"

"Wonderful Counselor!"

"Yahweh"

"Hosanna!"

"Halleluiah!"

"Prince of Peace!"

"Almighty God!"

"Yeshua!"

"Messiah"

"Peace on Earth!"

"Lion of Judah!"

"Lamb of God!"

"Risen One"

Gabriel: *(The **Angels** continue to shout over these following lines. When the appropriate amount of time has passed, shout)* Blessed is He who comes

in the name of the Lord! God is with us! Emmanuel! *(Then, raising his arms high above his head to cue the other Angels he shouts louder)*
Emmanuel!!!

G and A1: *(Raising their arms like Gabriel)* Emmanuel!

G and All: *(All arms raised, in unison and loudest yet!)* Emmanuel!!!

The lights go dark as the Angels leave silently and quickly while Gabriel steps out into a pool of light once again.

Gabriel: *(Quietly once again)* For unto us...a little baby boy is born. Unto us, Heaven's heart is given. And he will be called...many things. True and false. Shhhhh...tonight, the baby sleeps...but not for long. The manger will empty. The baby will crawl. Then walk. Then run. Then preach and heal and guide...and die, then rise and live and rescue his children. The manger will empty because God will not stay there. He promised to forever be *with us*. He is everywhere. He is...Emmanuel. Listen. Can you hear Him? Do you feel Him? He is here. He is here even now. He is *still* with us...because the manger is empty.

Blackout out on Gabriel and slowly lights up on the empty manger, then fade to black. Or keep the lights softly lighting the manger if you want to maintain the focus on the manger.