



**Troy & Genie Nilsson's**  
**The Christmas**  
**ANIMALS!**

*The Christmas story like you've seen it before- through the eyes of the Animals of Christmas!*  
**(Main Message: "Jesus loves you no matter what you smell like, and so do we!")**  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THE FEET OF JESUS!**

<b>SYNOPSIS: 1. OVERTURE / Joy To The World</b>	<b>Up, fun!</b>
<b>2. ANIMALS OF CHRISTMAS Theme</b>	<b>Up, fun!</b>
<b>3. KING'S LIMOUSINE (DONKEY and cast)</b>	<b>50's swing, very funny</b>
<b>4. WE THREE CAMELS</b>	<b>lament, hilarious</b>
<b>5. WHERE IS THE KING?</b>	<b>power ballad</b>
<b>6. optional: Lion (pride song)</b>	<b>suspenseful</b>
<b>7. optional: The Outcast's Song (Pig Song)</b>	<b>choose between funny and poignant versions</b>
<b>8. ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH</b>	<b>Fun but tasteful (Bruce Hornsby-like)</b>
<b>9. O Come All Ye Animals</b>	<b>Up- fun!</b>
<b>10. Away in manger/ SILENT NIGHT (Dove/Cow Song)</b>	<b>tender, contemplative, peaceful</b>
<b>11. THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS OF ALL</b>	<b>emotional and powerful, soft</b>
<b>12. FINALE (Opt.- KING OF THE JUNGLE (Christmas Mix) Joy To The World</b>	

<b>Characters:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Minimum Costume:</b>
<b>Donkey</b>	<b>Chauffer, cheerful, confident, helpful</b>	<b>Grey sweats, long ears/tail</b>
<b>3 Camels (Goldy, Franky, Myrr)</b>	<b>grumpy, humorous,</b>	<b>tan w/pillows on back</b>
<b>Sheep</b>	<b>sweet, gentle easy going, happy to please</b>	<b>white clothes w/cotton balls/ ears; one black sheep</b>
<b>Dog</b>	<b>police, law and order/ detective; McRuff</b>	<b>dark brown, large metal spiked collar, policeman props</b>
<b>Lion:</b>	<b>strong leader/ proud, jealous;</b>	<b>shiny Gold clothes, mane, crown</b>
<b>Owl/servant/messenger</b>	<b>formal, snooty: english accent</b>	<b>Monacle, suit (bowtie)</b>
<b>Pig:</b>	<b>dirty, smelly, outsider, shy</b>	<b>pink sweats, dirty and spotted</b>
<b>Dove</b>	<b>Peaceful</b>	<b>all white, shiny if possible</b>
<b>Opt:</b>		
<b>Cow</b>	<b>motherly</b>	<b>white/big black spots</b>
<b>Mary, Joseph</b>	<b>larger child or adult</b>	<b>traditional</b>
<b>Baby Jesus</b>	<b>doll or small 3-4 year old</b>	<b>traditional</b>
<b>Cast</b>	<b>Use your imagination! (black sheep to be the pig's companion)</b>	<b>try face painting!!</b>

**Call with any suggestions or comments. We're open to your ideas and need your encouragement to continue promoting and refining THE CHRISTMAS ANIMALS!**

# OVERTURE/Joy To The World

*full cast & choir*

***Joy to the world -  
the Lord has 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***

***Joy to the world  
The Savior reigns  
Let dogs their barks employ  
While cats and cows and mice and men  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***shout: Joy to the World! Joy To The World! Joy To The World! JOY!***

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***OPTIONAL, use TRADITIONAL LYRICS***

# OPENING DIALOG/ CHARACTER SETUP

*Joy to the World ENDS/applause*

*All the animals assembled; Lion center stage with animals seated in semi-circle, talking excitedly; Pig near Lion (Majestic Music intro?)*

*(optional \_\_\_\_: whisper:) Where's the King's crown?)*

**LION:** *(not wearing crown) Order, Order, Order!*

**DOG:** *Order in the court!*

**LION:** *(excitedly) - Summon my scribe!*

**OWL:** *Yes Sir, you rang?*

**LION:** *I have a decree!! We are to tell the whole world about the amazing events that have just taken place!*

**ANIMALS:** *YEAHHH! (sheep:Baaaahhhh)*

**LION:** *Officer - bring your sheep to order.*

**DOG:** *RUFF RUFF! (sheep settle down)*

**OWL:** *First - the rules of order; (moves toward the pig as if to kick pig out) (opt: "we must purge the meeting place of all undesirables")*

**LION:** *Wait...*

**OWL:** *But sir, it's against the law for pig to be here; We never invite the pig - he's dirty and smelly!*

**ANIMALS:** *(holding their noses) "Peeew!" "He stinks!" "Get him out of here!"*

**PIG:** *Hey... (acts timid)*

**LION:** *HE STAYS!*

**OWL:** *Well, what about those camels, they're foreigners ... aliens! - and I heard they're complainers too; what if they spit on us?!"*

**CAMELS:** *We won't spit! We wanna stay! Don't make us go!*

**LION:** *(ANNOYED) PLEASE! ...ORDER!*

**OWL:** *Did you say please? Your highness, you've never been polite before.*

**LION:** *Everything's changed! This world will never be the same, and that's why we've got to tell everyone!*

**SHEEP:** *Do you think they'll believe us? What's so special about us Animals?*

**LION:** *We're very special... God chose some of us to be eyewitnesses!*

**ANIMALS:** *Yeahhh!!!! That's right!*

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# optional: **Animals of Christmas!** **Key: D**

*(Bright Jingle Bells swing)*

**Dashing though the dirt of Bethlehems outskirts;** *(fields/sand/land)*  
**We saw it all so clear that first Christmas year**  
**Had a backstage pass to the King's birthday**  
**Barking braying neighing snorting, howling all the way; Hey!**

**Come and have some fun, sing about God's Son**  
**Come along with us, we're the Animals of Christmas**  
**It's Christmas Day, told a brand new way**  
**We've got alot to say, We're the Animals of Christmas.**

**We see things differently - But God Loves us too**  
**Down here on the food chain it's a unique point of view**  
**We had lots to do with this story too**  
**We're God's furry creatures and we're here to sing for you.**

## **Repeat Chorus**

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### **alternate lines:**

**We've got alot to say about the first Christmas day**  
**We're the Animals of Christmas and we're tellin it our own way**  
**The world's a different place when you look like a hog**  
**any Animal- a camel sheep dove lion or dog**

**ALternate 2nd verse lines: We had a special place and God loves us too**  
**God loves furry creatures too**

**His people had no room, so he hung out with us**  
**Nobody's too good for him**  
**'bout the first Christmas day We're tellin it a new way (our way)**

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## **DONKEY INTRODUCTION**

**LION: OK - Let's make sure we have the the facts straight - Who was there from the very beginning?**

**DONKEY: Me! See, I'm Joseph's Donkey. Now here's what happened...Joseph's fiancée, the Virgin Mary, was carrying God's only Son, and she was about to have the baby any day. Then Ceasar said so we all had to go to Bethlehem, ('cause ya gotta pay your taxes). The road was very rough and dangerous... But I could handle it! I was the donkey for the job! I was on a mission from God. Picking me was inspired- I'll tell you why...**

### **The King's Limousine (Donkey's Song) key:D**

**Donkey (very proudly ):**

**VERSE1:**

**You hear about me every year  
I'm an animal who has no fear  
My sense of humor and my smile  
Will get you through the toughest mile  
My engine's got get up and go  
And I'm the built in radio  
The reason that I love to sing  
I'm the King's limousine  
Choir( He's the King's Limousine)**

**CHORUS :**

**From Nazareth to Bethlehem  
On my hide you can depend  
I'm your driving dream machine  
I'm the king's limousine**

*(optionally sung by cast)*

**(He's) I've got side impact saddle bags  
Low ridin belly sag;  
The coolest ride you've ever seen  
(He's) I'm the King's Limousine**

**Plush deluxe leather seats  
Open air conditioning  
Economy that can't be beat  
Seven miles to a sack of wheat**

**From Nazareth to Bethlehem  
On (his) my hide you can depend  
(He's) I'm your driving dream machine  
(He's) I'm the King's limousine**

**ALternate lines:**

**His engine's got get up and go  
And He's the built in radio  
The reason that we love to sing  
He's the King's limousine**

# CAMELS INTRODUCED

**LION: OK. NEXT?! Camels- Let's hear your part of the story! (dog, donkey and lion exit to backstage quietly; other characters sit down.)**

**CAMELS:**

**GOLDY: Hi, I'm Goldy**

**FRANKY: I'm Franky,**

**MYRRHVIN: And I'm Myrrhvin!**

**GOLDY: We carried the wise men. Although, sometimes we wondered how wise they were. Like when (they said they wanted to go follow a star to find the New King,) they said, "Saddle up we're gonna follow yonder STAR!" You ever followed a star? It's very tricky, one cloudy night - next day you're in Egypt! -**

**FRANKY: And then they said Herod wanted to worship the New King... --- Yeah, right! King Herod wants to get rid of the baby king cause he's jealous!**

**MYRRHVIN: And he wanted us to traipse all over the country to help him!?**

**ALL CAMELS: Riiight...**

**GOLDY: ...Anyway... It was a long journey... So to pass the time, we made up songs - that's when things really started happening!!**

**FRANKY: Remember?**

**MYRRHVIN: Yeah**

**(Harp dreamy arpeggios; CAST does 'Wayne's World' dream sequence gesture/sound); (maybe: Kid walks across the stage with flashback sign)**

## ***We Three Camels KEY:C***

***We three camels traveling far  
Wish someone would invent a car  
We go up and down the mountains  
Following yonder star***

***These three kings are killing our backs  
Loaded us with big heavy packs  
Gold and frankensense and myrrh  
The countryside's just a blur***

**CHORUS** (*CAST or just camels*):

***Oh star of wonder star of night  
We wish you'd drop out of sight  
Lead us West to Bethlehem  
So we can have a Silent Night***

***(opt traditional: Star of royal beauty bright)***

***(opt traditional: Westward leading, still proceeding)***

***(opt traditional: Guide us to thy perfect light)***

***Everyone says these kings are wise  
We're just glad they don't pack their wives  
Pray we get there soon or else  
we're sure we're gonna die***

**Chorus**

***optional traditional lyrics ( God of wonder, God of light...)***

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## **DOG INVESTIGATES... WHERE IS THE KING SETUP**

**DOG:** *(Howling like police siren, flashing blue flashlight, approaches camels from backstage)*  
**Do you realize you ran that stopstone back there - you were swerving all over the place, singin that silly song... Hey - you're not from around here are you? What are you doing?**

**CAMELS:** *aww... We're looking for the new king!*

**DOG:** *What King? We've got a king - we don't need any foreign troublemakers startin' revolts about a new king.*

**CAMELS:** *No- ... The Messiah who's going to save everyone from their sins & make this world make sense again, the King of ALL Kings!*

**DOG:** *Interesting story but, hey, I've been investigating rumors about that new king for years.*

**SHEEP:** *Yeah, we've been waiting for him for centuries - we've almost given up hope...*

*(writer note: evolve sheep; set up more)*

# WHERE IS THE KING?

Character solo

It seems like I've been searching forever  
Lost in this dog eat dog world  
For the one who would make everything fairer  
And finally bring peace on (this) Earth  
This beautiful world is not all that it should be  
But I know it could be *(would be)*  
When we find the King

**Where is the King who will bring us together?**  
**Where is the King who will set us free?**  
**Where is the Lord *one?* we've been waiting for?**  
**Oh Where is the Prince Of Peace?**  
**Where is the King?**

I know I'll know his face when I see him  
Though I've never seen him before  
The government will be on his shoulders; *(director: call 888-801-5190 if you want a different line)*  
When all that is lost is restored  
This beautiful world will be all that it should be  
In the New Kingdom with the true King

## CHORUS

Where is the Prince Of peace?  
Where is the king (of kings)?  
**Where is the King**  
**Where is the king....**

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**LION: (bounds onstage, with crown) Where's the King?!? HERE I AM!**  
**(casts reacts, startled)**

**DOG: Sir, We meant no disrespect... Sir, We're speaking of the Messiah; the King of Kings**

**LION: (You'd better not be lyin'; I take my authority VERY seriously! You depend on me for leadership I have to check out any claims to the Throne. I've been put in charge and I won't tolerate imposter taking my place.**

*(Writer's note possible angle 2: PROUD, Jealous I'm the king; ; I don't need any new king.)*

## **OPTIONAL SONG: THE LION (Key: A,D)**

*Lion's attitude is like that of Herod; proud, Jealous, cause he's the 'King';*

**I'm the Liion I'm liiion Everyone fears me --I'm the liion**  
**I'm the Liion I'm not lion You' better revere me I'm the lion**  
**I'm the King of the Jungle - I'm the Lord of my Pride**  
**I rule and I humble so you better hide**  
**Cause I'm the Lion, I'm the liion**  
**Nobody beats me I'm the liion** *(writer's note: you'll ... tryin'?)*  
**I'm the Liion, I'm the Liion - The Throne is Mine I'm THE LION!**

### **Optional ideas:**

*Optional cast chorus: CAST: The Liion... He's the liiion, you'd better revere him he's the lion*  
*He's the lion He's the lion, everyone fears him - he's the lion*  
*He's the lion - I'm not lyin- don't ever go near him he's the lion*  
*The Liion... He's the liiion, he's the ruler he's the lion*  
*He's the king of the jungle He's the king of the land*  
*And if he sees you you will understand*  
*He's the Liion --The Liion you better respect him he's the lion*

*Don't ever get near me, I'm the Lion*

*WHen I roar people run in fear. You'd better respect me; don't ever cross me*  
*WHen I roar people listen; and stare; cause they know they had better beware!*

*The crown is the weight of the world on his shoulders/ too heavy to bear*  
*I'm responsible; perhaps almost weary of his responsibility; I CAN'T DO IT ALL; he hates that he's feared; I have no king;*

**LION: If you find out anything else, I want to know about it immediately! (I want a full report in my throneroom of every detail.)**

**DOG: Yes, sir!**

**EXIT LION**

**ENTER PIG & SHEEP**

**SHEEP: What're you doing here - you're unclean - eeuwww - get away.**

**PIG: Well, I know, but... I just wanted to see what all the noise was about...**

**DOG: The Lion's on the prowl cause there's a rumor goin' round about a new king being born.**

**CAMEL: Yeah - our wise men told us - (opt: and they know everything)!**

**PIG: Wow! A new king, I wish I could go see him**

**CAMELS: Well, come on, we're lookin for him!**

**PIG: (opt: You're not from around here, are you? See...) I can't, I'm unclean... nobody wants to be around me, I just stick to myself.**

**(Opt: dialog (snickering) between other animals with pig across stage)**

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# **OPTIONAL: The Outcast's Song** (PIG SONG)

## **FUNNY VERSION**

### **KEY:C**

*No king would want to be with me  
 Cause I snort like a hog and I really stink  
 Little girls see me and they hold their nose  
 I run for the table and the door slams closed  
 All night long, I shiver in my skin  
 I see a warm house but they won't let me in  
 I plop in the hog slop and play all day  
 I'm a dirty (little) pig and I like it that way  
**CAST: He's a dirty little pig and he likes it that way**  
 (sound fx: Oink squeal snort scratch and burp frt snort (whine) slobber/waller)*

*I have a split hoof but I don't chew cud  
 I look like a goof when I roll in the mud (nobody even pets my hide)  
 I whine like a swine and I slobber when I dine  
 but My Momma says I smell just fine  
 But I love bein' an unclean beast  
 'cause they don't eat me at the passover feast  
 cause I plop in the hog slop and play all day  
 I'm a dirty (little) pig and I like it that way  
**CAST: he's a dirty little pig and he likes it that way**  
 (sounds fx: Oink squeal snort scratch and burp snort frt (whine) slobber/waller)*

**TAG: Nobody likes me, everybody hates me, I'm gonna go eat slop! PLOP!**

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 Leviticus 11 (English-NIV)1:7

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,... the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you.

(See end of script for the full context)

## ***Is There Anyone Out There? ( Outcast song) (optional Quiet version of pig song)***

***When I am lonely  
That's most of the time  
I look to the heavens  
and ask myself why  
What is my purpose  
And could it be  
That there's someone  
Out there who could love me  
Is there someone who can  
Look past my skin  
Someone who's able to  
See what's within  
Is there someone who will  
Love me for me  
Does anyone out there love me?***

***(Writer notes/actor motivation: Basic ideas: I'm an outcast; Nobody wants to be near me Why is it no one ever wants to be around me, I'm not perfect, I've got problems; i'm a mess, i've got things I need to clean up; I've made a mess of my life, been dragged through the mud, and sometimes I've liked it that way, lonely, misfit, outcast, misunderstood; I know deep inside there's something special about me, but nobody wants to be around me; Theylook at the outside, but God looks at the heart; it's cold; I wish I could sing; I wish I could be clean; I wish people could see past the dirt; problem is about animals perception of him because of his appearance; I wish I didn't oink)***

**PIG EXIT DIALOGUE:**

**CAST: You're right! How silly, of course they wouldn't want YOU there!**

**ALL CAST: See ya!**

**PIG: Ok...bye...**

**{Cast begins to walk offstage to find Jesus}**

**CUE TRACK: very loud and majestic "GLORIA...!" (sound of angels singing); GLORIA!!!! rising chromatically; {Angels sing one chorus}, then animals return to center stage and sing.**

**Angels we have heard on High KEY:C**

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing oer the plains  
And the mountions in reply echoing their joyous strains**

**Gloria----- in excelsis deo**

**Gloria-----in excelsis deo**

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing oer the cows  
And the sheepdogs in reply echo'd back their joyous howls**

**Gloria\_\_\_\_\_ in excelsis deo**

**Gloria\_\_\_\_\_ in excelsis deo**

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing oer the sheep  
And the sheepies in reply echo back a joyous bleat**

**Gloria\_\_\_\_\_ in excelsis deo**

**Gloria\_\_\_\_\_ in excelsis deo (3rd chorus with all)**

**GLORIA..... I TAG**

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**DIALOG**

**DOG: Wow- that was cool, dude!**

**SHEEP: Yeaaaaaahhhh...**

**(ENETR DONKEY.)**

**DONKEY: Wow - what was that cool light show? It was thumpin like a rock concert!**

**SHEEP: Yeaaaaaahhhh... It was angels, comin to tell us that the New King is being born...  
C'mon, let's go FIND him!!**

**DONKEY: Hey, He's just been born! I know where he is! Come on! I'll take you there!**

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# **O' Come All Ye Animals**

**KEY:D**

**O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and Triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord**

**O come all ye animals,  
Sheep and dogs and camels  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold the real king of the Jungle  
O come let us adore him O come let us adore him Christ the Lord**

**[At end of song, Cast march offstage (down aisles to back of hall if practical)]**

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**optional - traditional lyrics**

# **STABLE SCENE**

**{Sheep, donkey, dogs, camels off stage}**

**Joseph standing; Mary seated holding baby (optional nativity scene)**

**Dove: What a peaceful (silent, beautiful) night...**

**Cow: That's right, they came to MY manger, - I'm SO MOOved..**

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## **SILENT NIGHT KEY:G**

**{As the song progresses, offstage animals come to edge of stage}**

*(possible idea: Dove sings first time, then everyone joins in)*

**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**

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## **MANGER SCENE**

**{Sheep, donkey, dogs, camels approach stage manger}**

**DOG: What's the King doin' HERE??**

**DONKEY: Man, - none of his people would let him in, so he has to sleep out in the manger with us..**  
*(Luke2:6)*

**DOG: Dude, that's cold...**

**DONKEY: I know, Hey, Let's go on in!**

**DOG: Are you sure???**

**DONKEY: It's OK, go on... He won't mind**  
*[Dog corrals Sheep toward stable]*

**DONKEY: You too, camels.**

**CAMELS: We're foreigners, we're not worthy.**

**DONKEY: You're wrong, He's your King too.**  
*(Lion approaches proudly from shadows) NOTE:SCRIPT DIFFERS FROM TAPE BELOW:*  
**CAMELS: Really? ok! [Camels glance at the Lion] After you, Your Highness!**

**LION: NO- Wait!. (Lion runs and jumps offstage, through audience, to lobby,**  
*(Animals murmur ("what's he doing????"))*  
**and comes running back with the pig (on his back? - optional).**

**PIG: (yelling joyfully) The Lion (King) says I can go see the baby King! (repeat ad lib)**

**DONKEY: (as lion and pig reach the stable) You can Piggy!**

**PIG: [pauses] what if he smells me?...**

**DONKEY: He won't reject you, Jesus loves everybody! (No matter what you smell like!) and so do we!) (opt:I'll go with you, little buddy.)**

**PIG: Really? OK!**

**ENTER PIG and DONKEY, kneel down**

**{Animals look surprised at pig.}**

**ENTER LION [everyone gasps in fear; looking at the Lion, then back at the baby king... }**

**LION: (Lion slowly walks up, sees baby Jesus and his attitude immediately changes. - Body relaxes. He takes off his crown; puts it at the feet of Jesus, and lays down by the lamb at Jesus' feet.)**

# **The Greatest Christmas**

KEY:A (G)

**When the peace of Christ rules in our hearts  
And the bitterness comes to an end  
When the outcast comes home to open arms  
When our enemies become our friends**

**There's a hope (song) of peace and a light of joy  
when together we all rejoice!!**

**When the lion lays down with the lamb  
Safe at the feet of the Great I AM  
Though all we have is a manger stall  
It's the greatest Christmas Day of all**

**When the nights are cold but our hearts are warm  
And the laughter sings out through the wild  
Though it's dark outside God will be our light  
When we lay down our crowns to His Child**

**He's our hope of peace and our Light of joy  
so together we'll all rejoice!**

**Chorus**

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**LION: Cmon' let's go tell everybody the Good News! (The True King Of Kings is here!!!)**

**(CAST GATHER AT CENTER STAGE, AND INVITE AUDIENCE TO SING ALONG)**

**LION: Sing with us!**

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**OPTIONAL SUGGESTED SONG either here or at very end:  
KING OF THE JUNGLE (CHRISTMAS MIX)**

**Who Is The King Of The Jungle (Ugh Ugh)**

**Who is the King of the sea (bobble bobble bobble)**

**Who is the king of the Universe**

**and who's the King Of Me-**

**I tell you**

**J-e-s-u-s**

**YES!**

**He is the King of me**

**Who is the king of the Universe,**

**the jungle and the sea**

**bobble bobble bobble-**

**UGH UGH!**

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# **JOY TO THE WORLD! - Finale** KEY:A/B

**Joy to The World  
the Lord has come!  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the world  
The Savior reigns  
let dogs their barks employ)  
cats and cows)  
and mice and men)  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy**

**v.1 repeat**

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**optional traditional 2nd verse  
Joy to the world  
The Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods  
Rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy**

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**optional narration:**

*Luke 2:17 When they had seen him, they **made known abroad** the word that had been told them about this child,18  
and all who heard it were amazed! 20 [They] returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had  
heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

**CURTAIN CALL**  
**THE END!**

**CHRISTMAS ANIMALS STUDY NOTES**

Rebecca St. James writes: I heard something today that I wanted to share with you. I was in a meeting with Eddie DeGarmo (ForeFront) and he was talking about something his pastor said last Sunday. He said that in Jesus' day shepherds were outcasts, looked down upon in society because of their affiliation with animals. They weren't even deemed 'worthy' enough (by men) to offer a sacrifice in the temple. But who were the first to come to Jesus in the stable? The shepherds.

**LUKE1: 26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,**

**27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.**

**28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.**

**29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.**

**30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.**

**31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.**

**32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:**

**33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

**34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?**

**35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**

**36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.**

**37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

**38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.**

**39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;**

**40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.**

**41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:**

**42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.**

**43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?**

**44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.**

**45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.**

**46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,...**

**56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.**

**1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.**

**2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)**

**3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.**

**4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)**

**5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.**

**6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.**

**7 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.**

**8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

**9 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.**

**10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

**11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

**12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

**13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,**

**14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

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

**16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.**

**17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.**

**18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.**

**19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.**

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

**1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

**2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;**

**3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;**

**4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;**

**5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;**

**6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;**

**7 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;**

**8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;**

**9 And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;**

**10 And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;**

**11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:**

**12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;**

**13 And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;**

**14 And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;**

**15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;**

**16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

**17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.**

**18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**

**19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.**

**20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

**21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

**22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,**

**23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**

**24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:**

**25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.**

**1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,**

**2 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.**

**3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.**

**4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.**

**5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,**

**6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.**

**7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.**

**8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.**

**9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.**

**10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.**

**11 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.**

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

**13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.**

**14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:**

**15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

**16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.**

**17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,**

**18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.**

**19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,**

**20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.**

**21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.**

**22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:**

**23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.**

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## REGULATIONS REGARDING UNCLEAN ANIMALS

Leviticus 11 (English-NIV)1:7

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron...

2

"Say to the Israelites: `Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: You may eat any animal that has a split hoof completely divided and that chews the cud.

4

"There are some that only chew the cud or only have a split hoof, but you must not eat them. The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a split hoof; it is ceremonially unclean for you.

5

The coney, [1] though it chews the cud, does not have a split hoof; it is unclean for you.

6

The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a split hoof; it is unclean for you.

7

And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you.

8

You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.

9

"`Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams, you may eat any that have fins and scales.

10

But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales--whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water--you are to detest.

11

And since you are to detest them, you must not eat their meat and you must detest their carcasses.

12

Anything living in the water that does not have fins and scales is to be detestable to you.

13

"These are the birds you are to detest and not eat because they are detestable: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture,

14

the red kite, any kind of black kite,

15

any kind of raven,

16

the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,

17

the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl,

18

the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey,

19

the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat. [2]

20

"All flying insects that walk on all fours are to be detestable to you.

21

There are, however, some winged creatures that walk on all fours that you may eat: those that have jointed legs for hopping on the ground.

22

Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket or grasshopper.

23

But all other winged creatures that have four legs you are to detest.

24

"You will make yourselves unclean by these; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening.

25

Whoever picks up one of their carcasses must wash his clothes, and he will be unclean till evening.

26

"Every animal that has a split hoof not completely divided or that does not chew the cud is unclean for you; whoever touches [the carcass of] any of them will be unclean.

27

Of all the animals that walk on all fours, those that walk on their paws are unclean for you; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening.

28

Anyone who picks up their carcasses must wash his clothes, and he will be unclean till evening.

They are unclean for you.

29

"Of the animals that move about on the ground, these are unclean for you: the weasel, the rat, any kind of great lizard, the gecko, the monitor lizard, the wall lizard, the skink and the chameleon.

31

Of all those that move along the ground, these are unclean for you. Whoever touches them when they are dead will be unclean till evening.

41

"Every creature that moves about on the ground is detestable; it is not to be eaten.

42

You are not to eat any creature that moves about on the ground, whether it moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet; it is detestable.

43

Do not defile yourselves by any of these creatures. Do not make yourselves unclean by means of them or be made unclean by them.

44

I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground.

46

"These are the regulations concerning animals, birds, every living thing that moves in the water and every creature that moves about on the ground.

47

You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between living creatures that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten."

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***Call with any suggestions or comments. We're open to your ideas and need your encouragement to continue promoting and refining THE CHRISTMAS ANIMALS!***

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