

CHRISTMAS 4 KIDS

This is a short and sweet Christmas service for young children – suitable for a community Christmas service, carol evening or Christmas Eve Story Time.

Some ideas:

- ☺ Invite children to come dressed as shepherds, angels, barnyard animals etc
- ☺ Have spare costumes available on the day
- ☺ If scheduled for Christmas Eve, you might like to make it a pyjama party!
- ☺ Make it an informal, welcoming atmosphere – provide cushions & bean bags for seating on the floor
- ☺ Have Christmas colouring or activity sheets to hand out at the end

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Invite all the children to gather at the front.

Sing:

TWINKLE, TWINKLE

Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like an angel in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star
How I wonder what you are.



NATIVITY STORY

Tell the story of Christmas in simple words. Use a picture book, felt board or images on a data projector. Another option is to use an ornamental nativity set, holding each figure up and passing it around to the children as you tell the story.

Sing:

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus
asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes;
I love you Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky
And stay by my side
until morning is nigh.



STORY TIME

Read your favourite Christmas story. If you're stuck, here are a few of my favourites you might like to check out:



- ☺ A Right Royal Christmas – by Lucy Davey & Donovan Bixley
- ☺ Cowshed Christmas – by Joy Cowley & Gavin Bishop
- ☺ Great Joy – by Kate DiCamillo (quite lengthy, suitable for older audiences)
- ☺ Humphrey's First Christmas – by Carol Heyer
- ☺ Mortimer's Christmas – by Karma Wilson
- ☺ Room For A Little One – by Martin Waddell & Jason Cockroft
- ☺ The Camel Who Found Christmas – by Alexa Tewkesbury
- ☺ The First Christmas – by Carol Heyer
- ☺ The Fourth King – by Ted Sieger
- ☺ Wombat Divine – by Mem Fox

Sing: WHERE ARE THE SHEPHERDS

Use a parachute or large piece of material and have the children take turns to go underneath.

(Echo song, tune: Frere Jacques)

LEADER SINGS:

Where are the shepherds
Here we are
Watching all our sheep
Baa, baa, baa

Where are the shepherds
Here we are
On our way to Bethlehem
To see baby Jesus.

Where are the angels
Here we are
On our way to Bethlehem
To see baby Jesus.

Where are the wise men
Here we are
On our way to Bethlehem
To see baby Jesus.

CHILDREN ECHO:

Where are the shepherds
Here we are
Watching all our sheep
Baa, baa, baa

Where are the shepherds
Here we are
On our way to Bethlehem
To see baby Jesus.

Where are the angels
Here we are
On our way to Bethlehem
To see baby Jesus.

Where are the wise men
Here we are
On our way to Bethlehem
To see baby Jesus.



Sing: SING MERRY CHRISTMAS

Play CD (from Julie Wylie's 'Sing Merry Christmas cd)

Use the parachute/material again. Bounce soft toy animals (sheep, cows etc) on the parachute.

PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus to tell us how much You love us.
Thank You for being with us all the time.
Thank You for our families and friends.
We pray for those people who are sick, lonely, hungry or sad.
Please help us to remember to be kind and think of others.
Help us to share.
Amen.



Sing: WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Have helpers on hand to blow bubbles during this song, or you could hand out mini bubble-blowers to the children.

We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year
Glad tidings we bring,
to you and your kin,
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy new year!

