

Characters

- Gabriel and Angelica (the main two parts which require the most acting ability)
- Clarence, the Angel.
- Readers 1 and 2 (straight reading parts)
- Readers 3 and 4 (read but also storm off)
- Readers 5 and 6
- Shepherds and sheep.
- Host of Angels: For all other children who want a part. They will need to march, sing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City, and perform another song like [Happy day](#) by Colin Buchanan. One could be a drummer. One should be dressed as Luke Skywalker/Rey.

Suggested outline of service:

- Welcome & Opening prayer
- Song (Traditional Carol)
- Sketch 1
- Song (Traditional Carol)
- Sketch 2
- Reading 1: Luke 2:1-7
- Sketch 3 (featuring mince pie taste challenge)
- Song: Once in Royal David's City
- Reading 2: Luke 2: 8-13
- Song: Happy Day (or another Children's Christmas song) performed by angels
- Sketch 4
- Reading 3: Luke 2: 15-20
- Song (Traditional Carol)
- Talk.
- Prayers. (Led by children)
- Song (Traditional Carol)
- Closing Prayer



Story

Character/Actions	Lines
<h3>Sketch 1</h3> <p><i>As many angels as possible march in. Possibly with someone drumming at the front in military style. One of the Angels is dressed as Luke Skywalker with a Lightsabre (or Rey from The Force Awakens...)</i> <i>They are led by Gabriel calling out. Angelica is with Gabriel.</i></p> <p>Gabriel: <i>March around for a bit when they get to the front...</i></p>	<p>Left! Left! Left right left! Left! Left! Left Right Left!</p> <p>Heavenly host!.... HALT!</p>

*Gabriel goes up high
somewhere he/she can
be seen, possibly a pulpit.
He seems grumpy.*

Gabriel:

I hope you can sing better than you can march!

Angelica:

I'm sure they can.

Gabriel:

Did you see them marching? Arms and legs everywhere. Like a centipede after eating too much sugar.

Angelica:

Are you okay, Gabriel?

Gabriel:

Good job Joshua's army didn't march like that around Jericho.

Angelica:

Gabriel?! What's the matter?

Gabriel:

Nothing. I'm fine. Stand to attention angels! You're meant to be a heavenly host! A mighty army of angelic warriors. Which one of you has a flaming sword?

*An angel waves a light
sabre.*

Gabriel:

I'm pretty sure that's a light sabre. And you're dressed as Luke Skywalker! This isn't Star Wars!

Angelica:

They're doing their best! Seriously, Gabriel, what's wrong?

Gabriel:

I dunno. And this lot aren't helping. Heavenly Host? Take five.

Angelica:

That means have a break. Sit down. We will call you when we need you. Ooh, can I dismiss them?

Gabriel:

If you like.

Angelica:

Heavenly Host! Faaaaaalllll OUT!!

*Heavenly host go and sit
down.*

Gabriel:

Okay. Angelica. I have something to tell you.

Angelica:	Oh no! You've forgotten to get me a present? You've got me a big present? You've bought me Brussel sprouts? That is so weird, why would you...
Gabriel: <i>(interrupting)</i>	Stop. Shhh! It's me... It's just... well... I don't feel Christmassy!
Angelica:	What?
Gabriel:	I know. Me! The Archangel Gabriel doesn't feel Christmassy. I mean, this is my time! It's my big gig. There I was nine months ago, announcing to Mary that she was going to have a Son, who happened to be God! It felt really important and significant...
Angelica:	But now you don't feel Christmassy?
Gabriel:	No, no Christmas feels. None.
Angelica:	Well maybe a Christmas Carol will get you in the mood?
Gabriel:	I hope so.
Angelica: <i>[announce Christmas Carol.] Gabriel and Angelica stay there while a Christmas Carol is sung by the Congregation.</i>	Let's sing a Christmas Carol together. Let's stand to sing

Sketch 2

- Gabriel: Please be seated.
- Angelica: Well, we smashed that. You must be feeling Christmassy now?
- Gabriel: Not so much.
- Angelica: Okay, let's try a reading. Readers? Let's have Luke's Gospel. Chapter 1. Verses 1 to 7.
- Gabriel: I'm not in that bit, am I?
- Angelica: No. Is that a problem?
- Gabriel: No, no. Just checking. Carry on.

Reading 1

[Reading, possibly from the Lecturn.]

- Reader 1: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.
- Reader 2: This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- Reader 1: And everyone went to their own town to register.
- Reader 2: 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.
- Reader 1: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.
- Reader 2: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.
- Reader 1: She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Sketch 3

Angelica:

Feeling Christmassy now?

Gabriel:

Not really.

Angelica:

Right. There's nothing else for it. We're going to need a mince pie.

Gabriel:

Wait, wait, wait. I don't want just any old mince pie. I want a really Christmassy Mince pie. I need this to work.

Angelica:

Don't worry. Help is at hand...

At this point, someone runs a 'mince pie taste test'.

Take a packet of mince pies from three or four local supermarkets, choose some volunteers from the audience and do a blind taste test. Perhaps show the congregation where each mince pie is from as they're tasted. See which mince pie is the most Christmassy. You could get the volunteers to remain in their seats and have children dressed up as nativity characters or use the heavenly host take them their mince pies. Maybe cut them in half or smaller so the judges don't have to wolf down four mince pies! Run it

how you want. Have fun with it (if your congregation like fun).

Get the judges to vote their favourites. Try to rank them. And then reveal which one is the judge's favourite and the winner of the Most Christmassy Mince Pie.

Take one of the mince pies and give it Gabriel. Gabriel tastes it.

Gabriel:

Not bad.

Angelica:

Feeling Christmassy now?

Gabriel:

Not really. I'm really sorry about this everyone. I think I'm letting you down.

Angelica:

This is a disaster. The Angel Gabriel isn't feeling Christmassy.

Clarence stands up from the heavenly host.

Clarence:

Excuse me!

Angelica:

Yes, Clarence?

Gabriel:

Who's Clarence?

Angelica:

He's one of the trainee Angels. Second Class.

Gabriel:

Oh yes!

Clarence:	When I have someone who's really down, especially at Christmas, I try showing them what the world would be like if they'd never been born.
Angelica:	Yes, thank you, Clarence. The old favourite. The angel 101- the "It's A Wonderful Life" plan!
Gabriel:	We don't really have time to watch that now. It's two and a quarter hours long.
Angelica:	Still it's shorter than Home Alone. And Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.
Gabriel:	Which is terrifying by the way! That child catcher is seriously creepy.
Angelica:	How is it even a kids' movie?
Gabriel:	We could watch The Great Escape!
Angelica:	That's nearly three hours!
Gabriel:	Why are Christmas films so long?!
Angelica:	Because they know everyone's too tired and full to change the channel.
Clarence:	So let's watch It's A Wonderful Life!
Gabriel:	No, thank you, Clarence. And yes, we all love a Christmassy Film.
Angelica:	But we don't have time for that.
Gabriel:	You're right. We're due at the hillside in five minutes!
Angelica:	What? This is my big moment. Assemble the heavenly host! Heavenly Host! Foooooorm... up!
<i>The Heavenly Host of Angels assemble. Yes, it will be chaos. It's fine. It's Christmas..</i>	

Angelica:

We will now sing our next Carol, Once in Royal David's City. The Heavenly Host will sing the first verse. Please join in after that.

Song: Once in Royal David's City

The Heavenly Host sing the first verse. Then they can troop off to the back of the church after that.

Reading 2

Reader 3:

Please sit down.

Reader 4:

Our second reading is from Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 8.

Some shepherds and sheep enter.

Reader 3:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Reader 4:

An angel of the Lord appeared to them.

Gabriel:

Wait! That's me!

Reader 4:

And the glory of the Lord shone around them,

Angelica:

It didn't say it was you.

Reader 4:

And they were terrified.

Angelica:

It just said an angel.

Gabriel:

Yes, but it was obviously me.

Angelica:

Not necessarily.

Reader 3:

Do you mind?

Angelica:	Sorry. Carry on.
Reader 3:	But the angel said to them
Gabriel:	I know this bit! “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
Reader 3:	I don't know why I bothered.
<i>Reader 3 scrumples up script and walks off.</i>	
Reader 4:	Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
Angelica:	Heavenly Host! It's your big moment! Let's sing the song we practiced! This is bound to make Gabriel feel Christmassy! And join in with chorus if you can.
	Song: Children's performance
<i>Music plays. Choir 'Happy Day' by Colin Buchanan. (or a song of your choice!)</i>	
Gabriel:	That was great! Now I feel Christmassy! Let's give them a round of applause.
<i>Everyone applauds.</i>	

Sketch 4

Sketch 4

- Reader 4: Although the heavenly host didn't actually sing Happy Day.
- Gabriel: No, but it's a good song.
- Reader 4: I don't know why I bothered either. And Angels aren't meant to have light sabres by the way!
- Reader 4 scrumples up script and walks off.*
- Angelica: Clarence? Can you help us with the reading?
- Clarence: Yes. Of course! 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 among those with whom he is pleased!"
- Gabriel: Now I feel so Christmassy, I could almost start singing like Michael Bublé.
- Angelica: Okay, let's not go too far.
- Gabriel: You can't have Christmas without Bublé! Or trees, and presents, and chocolate, and stockings and turkey and pigs in blankets.
- Angelica: But don't they all get in the way of Christmas?
- Gabriel: No! They're all part of the feast! To celebrate Christmas with all our senses. The sights, the sounds, the smells...
- Angelica: That'll be the sprouts...
- Gabriel: Because God came to earth as a baby. So we could see him, and hear him and touch him.
- Angelica: I'm not smelling a baby.

Gabriel:	It just shows Jesus was fully human. That's the message of Christmas. God wants to be known. He wants to be with us so that we can all feast together.
Angelica:	Wow.
Gabriel:	Right. Where are the rest of those mince pies? I'm going to scoff them in front of The Great Escape. Wake me in three hours!
<i>Gabriel leaves.</i>	
Angelica:	Right. Mission accomplished. Heavenly Host. Off up into heaven! By the left, quick... march! Left! Left! Left Right Left!
<i>Play the Theme from the Great Escape. Angelica leads off the heavenly host with the shepherds and sheep. Fade music.</i>	
Reading 3	
Reader 5:	When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
Reader 6:	So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.
Reader 5:	And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.
Reader 6:	And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Meeting leader comes to say well done to the young people.

Announces next **Carol**.

Talk. (see Christmasfeels [all age talk short](#) and [long versions](#))

Children lead prayers

Notices (if needed. But hey, it's church. There are always notices!)

Final Carol

Closing Prayer