

Angels Announce Jesus' Birth  
About 5 minutes, from Luke 2:1-20

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not perform.*)

Cheery

Grouchy

Angel

Mary

Prompter Shout a brief line and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Grouchy Hey, Cheery, It's boring tending these dumb sheep all night!  
Nothing interesting ever happens.

Cheery I guess you'd be happier, Grouchy, if wolves came and bit you.  
Look. A lantern is still glowing down there in Bethlehem.

Prompter & Echoes The city of David!

Grouchy Keep awake, Cheery. It'll be a long, long night.  
It's clear now, but it'll probably rain on us soon.

Cheery Look, Grouchy, up there! (Point up)  
Look! In the sky! What's that bright light?

Grouchy Oooh! I've never seen a light so intense.  
It's blinding me! Hide! Quick!

Cheery It's getting closer. Hey! Look out! Who's that?  
He's blazing with light! Run!

Prompter & Echoes Help!

Angel Do not fear!

Grouchy He says not to fear! What does he expect?  
He's an alien from outer space!  
He could zap us in an instant!

Angel That is not why I came... this time.  
I am God's messenger, with very good news.  
Go into town. You'll find a newborn baby wrapped in rags  
and lying in an animal's feeding trough.  
He will be your savior.

Prompter & Echoes Our savior!

Cheery Look, Grouchy! Now there's a whole army of angels!  
They're singing! The harmony is beautiful!  
Oh, it's so powerful! It's frightening, yet comforting!

Angel Glory to God in the highest!  
Peace on earth to all men!

Prompter & Echoes Peace on earth!

Cheery Hurry, Grouchy. Let us go to Bethlehem.  
We'll find the baby and worship him.

Grouchy                    Wait! I'm out of breath.  
Oh, here's a shack with a lantern still lit.  
But how could our deliverer be born in a barn?

Prompter & Echoes    Amazing!

Cheery                    Here is his mother. Hello, young lady.

Mary                      What do you gentlemen want here?  
We were here first.

Cheery                    Angels sent us to see your child, ma'am.  
They said he would be our Savior.

Mary                      Angels? Did angels tell you about my son?  
Oh, forgive my weeping! It's from so much joy!  
I will always treasure in my heart what you said.

Grouchy                    Ma'am, why are you and your child out here  
with these smelly animals?

Prompter & Echoes    It stinks!

Mary                      There was no room in the Inn. Bethlehem is crowded this week.  
We Jews have come from many towns to register for the Roman  
tax. We came all the way from Nazareth to register.

Cheery                    Then you were born here in Bethlehem, the city of David.

Mary                      Yes. My husband Joseph and I are descendants of King David.  
Have you shepherds registered for the tax?

Grouchy                    I'm not going to. I'll escape the Romans' attention.  
I hate those brutal invaders!

Mary                      Careful! You'll get in serious trouble!  
This tax is an edict of Emperor Caesar Augustus.

Cheery                    I wonder. How will this tiny baby save us, as the angels said?

Grouchy                    He'll grow up strong, and bash those greedy Romans!  
We won't have to pay their fiendish taxes anymore!

Cheery                    I thought the Messiah was to free Israel,  
but the angels said he'd bless all people. Strange!

Mary                      All people? Really?

Cheery                    Grouchy, let's go tell all our friends the good news.  
Just think! A savior who will bring peace to all people!

Prompter & Echoes    Peace on earth!

Cheery                    Now everyone, let us discuss this.  
How would you have felt,  
had you been with us shepherds that night?  
Mention some things that would have filled you  
with fear, wonder or joy.