

## Christmas Round the Back Door

A Pick-up Pageant

by

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on behalf of Ryerson United Church

The background: The congregation has been invited to come costumed as any character they wish, in the nativity story. A box of costumes is available for children and adults to choose from and wear immediately, when they enter the church. Bible Reader can be one person who stands for the entire pageant at a lectern, or it could be a character who has just arrived on the scene each time. See below.

The Main Characters: "One" - a servant boy/girl. Singing, acting, speaking role

"Two" - a servant boy/girl. Singing, acting, speaking role

Nativity Characters: Innkeeper - male or female, speaking part

3 Kings - mute acting, one read line

Shepherds (as many as you wish) - mute acting

Angels - mute acting, anthem or Gloria-singing

Optional:

Liturgical "Host" (could easily be one of the Servants) - invites costumed congregation members to join the scene.

Bible Reader - stays at the lectern throughout the pageant. Job could be filled by one of the Nativity Characters (see the script)

The scene: a stable (of course). Stable is prepared so that there are seats at centre stage for Mary and Joseph, there is an area for Angels, Shepherds and Kings.

## Christmas Round the Back Door

Drama begins: Two servants brandishing brooms come rushing into the stable from off-stage (perhaps down an aisle), quite relieved to have escaped the inn.

One

Whew! We just made it. Those people are crazy in there!

Two

Pushy, pushy, pushy! I've never seen so many people crammed into one inn at the same time. You'd think the idea of making everybody go back to their birthplace was made up by innkeepers.

One

Yeah, business has never been better for the boss. But, boy those are some cranky people. Clean this! Move that! Bring me flesh and bring me wine! I almost got bitten!

Bible reader or Shepherd (Lk 2:15-19)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger, When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.  
Lights up. Congregation sings *The First Nowell, verses 1&2, (VU 91)*

Knocking is heard.

Innkeeper's voice

*I've had enough of this! I'm telling you there's no room! No room at all! Absolutely N-- oh! Excuse me! I didn't realise who I was speaking to. Welcome to my humble abode. I, I, I am honoured that royalty should come to my inn. Of course there's room for such wealthy - I mean - noble guests. I can throw out a few nobodies to make room for you and your camels.*

One Wise One's voice

*No, thank-you. We seek a king, born today.*

Innkeeper's voice

*Well, sure! We can find one of those around here. Come in my front door...*

Second Wise One's voice

*The child is to be found in a lowly place. Perhaps a stable?*

Innkeeper's voice

*Nonsense! Come this way. Please!*

Three Magi make their way down the aisle, followed by a fussing Innkeeper. Magi make their way to the baby, kneel down and present their gifts. Innkeeper watches nonplussed.

Innkeeper (somewhat hushed, to the Servants)

*What's going on out here? Who are all these people and animals and birds?*

Lights down.

Bible reader Or Magus (Wise One) (from Mt2: 1-)

Then magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king? Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search for this child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."