



NATIVITY 2021

What is Christmas?



DECEMBER 19, 2021
NEWPORT-ON-TAY CHURCH
Directed and written by Jane Campbell

NATIVITY 2021

CAST

WELCOME FROM THE CHURCH or ZOOM

NARRATOR (SEBASTIAN)

PRESENTER (ANNIE)

HOMELESS PERSON (EMILY)

SHOPPER 1 (RUBY)

SHOPPER 2 (GRACE)

TEEN 1 (STUART)

TEEN 2 (WILLIAM)

WEE ANGEL (ARIELLE)

DIRECTOR (MARGARET)

MARY (JEMIMA)

JOSEPH (RACHEL)

DONKEY (LEO)

WISE MAN 1 (ROO)

WISE MAN 2 (GILEAD)

WISE MAN 3 (DANIEL)

SHEPHERD 1 (CALUM)

SHEPHERD 2 (LEWIS)

ANGELS (SOPHIA, GRACE)

COSTUMES (AMANDA/MORAG)

SCRIPT (JANE)

DIRECTOR (JANE)

What is Christmas?

(WELCOME FROM THE CHURCH / OR ZOOM)

Welcome to morning worship on this fourth Sunday of Advent. The service today is our Nativity Service and is led by the young people of the church.

A warm welcome to everyone here in the building, joining us on Zoom, or listening to the recorded service later. A particular welcome to anyone who is worshipping with us for the first time or is returning after some time away. Please do come through to the hall after the service and join us for coffee, tea and fellowship.

As usual please remain seated at the end of the service until the stewards tell you when to leave.

Please remain seated for all the carols apart from the closing one at the end of the service. Also please turn your mobiles off or to airplane mode.

We don't have printed orders of service, however the full script for today which contains the order was emailed in advance.

Now it is time to light the four advent candles (Conor)

Let us now draw near to God, let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

come among us in this time of worship

As you came in Bethlehem and will come again in glory,

so we ask, draw near now and open our eyes to your presence among us.

Speak your word,

impart your blessing,

grant your mercy,

and renew our faith,

So that we may be ready at every moment to welcome you

And be equipped to live more truly to your praise and glory

Amen

Let us now start our service by singing our first hymn 'Make Way, Make Way'.

Hymn: CH4 279: Make Way, Make Way for Christ the King

(If in the church) Has anyone seen the children? Weren't they supposed to come in during the first hymn? Oh dear! I wonder where they are?

Well let's watch some TV. I am sure they will turn up.

(clicks on a remote control towards the screen)

(Children join on Zoom)

SEBASTIAN (NARRATOR) Christmas! The most wonderful time of the year. It certainly is for those of us who are Christians, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. But for some, it is not as wonderful. This could be for many reasons. The true meaning can get lost amidst all the hype and festivities. We should remember those less fortunate and share the love, respect, and goodwill that Jesus tells us to do. Each person can make a difference, even a small one. Join us as we find out how just one person can make a difference to someone. We now go over to our NOTKIRK studios where we have a Nativity special.

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Hello and welcome to our Nativity special. We are going to hear a remarkable story...well two remarkable stories, which are not just stories, about Christmas and how this changed someone's life. First of all, let us speak to Emily who found herself homeless for a while. Can you tell me your story Emily?

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) I had nowhere to stay, I was practically begging on the street. I looked a real mess. People ignored me and were rude to me when I asked for change for a cup of tea and food to eat. It was awful.

ANNIE (PRESENTER) That's not good is it. Who would do that?

Shoppers and teens put their hands up and look guilty

RUBY (SHOPPER 1) We were more interested in getting scented candles and buying lots of other things we really didn't need.

GRACE (SHOPPER 2) I wanted a cosy blanket with reindeers on it

STUART (TEEN 1) We were in party mood and didn't care about anything

WILLIAM (TEEN 2) Except getting together with pals and having a good time

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Not very nice is it?

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) No it wasn't. But, then an angel came along

ANNIE (PRESENTER) An angel?

ARIELLE (WEE ANGEL) That was me. I'm not a real angel. I was going to my nativity play

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) You were an angel to me. You gave me your lunch box that was full of lovely food.

ARIELLE (WEE ANGEL) I didn't need it, you did.

ANNIE (PRESENTER) That was a very kind thing to do.

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) There was some money in the box. £5 it was. I had to return it to her. I was worried I would be accused of stealing it. So, I headed off to the place where the nativity was being held. I was very nervous going inside the hall as I looked such a mess. I hoped that I wouldn't get thrown out

ANNIE (PRESENTER) But you *did* go. That was good. I think it's a good time to join our special choir and sing a nice about hope now.

Hymn: CH4 284: Hope is a candle

ANNIE (PRESENTER) So getting back to this nativity, let's ask the director how it was all going.

MARGARET We were having a last-minute rehearsal, it was a bit chaotic. I was stressed, very stressed. I may have been a bit short and rude to Emily at first.

ANNIE (PRESENTER) So Emily what has this actually to do with your story?

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) After I found the little angel and made her take her £5 back, I was invited to sit and watch the last-minute rehearsal. It was lovely and warm, but it was chaos. Mary and

Joseph were not acting very afraid when the angel appeared to them. The director was losing the plot a bit.

Mary and Joseph give a wave

RACHEL (JOSEPH) Hey, we were trying our best you know

JEMIMA (MARY) I'm not used to all this acting

RACHEL (JOSEPH) I thought you were great as Mary

JEMIMA (MARY) Thank you. You were great as Joseph

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) Then I happened to mention that I had some drama experience and directed a play in high school

MARGARET (DIRECTOR) What a help you were. Mary and Joseph acted so well, in the end especially when the angel visited them. First to Mary, to tell her she was going to have a baby and then to angry Joseph, who eventually accepted the situation and take Mary as his wife.

During this, Mary and Joseph and the angel do a thumbs up.

Donkey pops up

LEO (DONKEY) Hee haw, hee haw

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) The donkey didn't need any help. His hee haws were perfect

The donkey looks pleased

LEO (DONKEY) Hee haw, hee haw

ANNIE (PRESENTER) There is a carol about a donkey. Let's sing it now

Hymn: Little donkey

ANNIE (PRESENTER) What happened next?

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) I had to help the wise men to be more majestic and clever looking and they needed a wee hand with saying their lines, when they brought in the gifts

ROO (WISE MAN 1) Gold
GILEAD (WISE MAN 2) Myrrh
DANIEL (WISE MAN 3) Frankenstein
ROO/GIL (WISE MAN 1 AND 2) Frankincense!!
DANIEL (WISE MAN 3) I just can't say that word Frankenst, franko,
frankincenseYay got it
ALL (WISEMEN 1, 2 and 3) Yay
EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) Yes, he got it right eventually, but they were a
bit upset with the fact they didn't have camels
ROO (WISE MAN 1) Well, Mary and Joseph got a donkey
LEO (DONKEY) Hee haw
GILEAD (WISE MAN 2) We had to walk, and we did ...majestically
ANNIE (PRESENTER) You certainly were kept busy Emily
MARGARET (DIRECTOR) She was a great help to me. I'm not getting any
younger you know. The wise men looked good and were happy
they had a carol about them
ANNIE (PRESENTER) Let's sing it now

Hymn: JP 271: We three kings

ANNIE (PRESENTER) You certainly had your work cut out that day Emily
EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) I did. But everyone was so nice to me and so
welcoming. I thought being in the state I was in , they would not
want me being there. It had been a long time since anyone had
taken an interest in me. I hadn't had kindness showed to me for a
long time.
MARGARET (DIRECTOR) It was a pleasure having you help me
EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) The next group I had to help with, were the
shepherds. I have a special affection for them.

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Really? How is that.

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) They were the first people to be told that Jesus was born. Shepherds were not regarded very highly. A bit like me. Plus, they had cute little sheep.

The shepherds wave

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) They were good at being terrified when the angels appeared to them in the fields.

CALUM (SHEPHERD 1) That host of angels woke me up. I was having a great sleep too

LEWIS (SHEPHERD 2) What a noise they made and all our flocks were going baaarmy

ARIELLE (WEE ANGEL) But our singing was good, wasn't it angels?

Sophia and Grace wave

The shepherds wave again

ANNIE (PRESENTER) I think the shepherds are trying to say something

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) Ah yes. They did a wonderful dance too

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Was it a rumbaaa?

She laughs at her own joke

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Rumbaaaa, get it? Oh, never mind.

CALUM/LEWIS (SHEPHERDS 1 & 2) No. it was a baa baa baa

MARGARET (DIRECTOR) Do you mean a cha cha cha. Oh, I love Strictly

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Me too but I think we are getting off the subject here. So, what happened next. You must have had everyone all sorted and ready

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) Well, we got the children all arranged in the tableau scene in the stable. They were all there. The angels, the shepherds, the wise men, Mary and Joseph and the donkey. It looked fantastic. Baby Jesus was there too but he came out of a carrier bag.

Jemima brings a dolly from a carrier bag

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) The children all sang Silent Night. It was lovely and I was very moved by it. It is a beautiful carol

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Well let's sing it now

Hymn: JP 219: Silent Night

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Thank you for sharing that story with us, Emily, but can you tell us *why* it has made such a difference to your life

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) Of course. The nativity story speaks for itself. God sent Jesus to save the world. We know that. He didn't come into this world, born in a palace but in a humble stable to a mother and father who were quite ordinary. He taught about loving your neighbour and that's what the people taking part in the nativity did for me. They looked beyond my dirty clothes and appearance. They offered me kindness and friendship and respected me and things I had done. It gave me belief in myself again.

ANNIE (PRESENTER) That is such a wonderful story thank you for sharing it with us.

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) The children had been practising a new song too and I know they would like you to join in with it. It is quite an easy tune to pick up

ANNIE (PRESENTER) I'm sure we would all love to sing it.

EMILY (HOMELESS PERSON) It is called Christmas is for everyone

PTO

SONG Christmas is for everyone

Christmas is a time for giving, Christmas is a time of cheer

Bringing the joy of our saviour's birth to all the people far and near

At Christmas time we celebrate that God sent Jesus here to earth

Spread the love to everyone and celebrate with joy and mirth

Christmas is for everyone

Young and old, girl and boy

Let's clap our hands and sing out loud

Let the Christmas bells ring out with joy

Christmas should bring us all together, from family to foe and friend

Sharing the love that Jesus showed us, so evil things can come to an end

The best present we can give to others is love and kindness in every way

Not just to give at Christmas time but each and every single day.

Christmas is for everyone

Young and old, girl and boy

Let's clap our hands and sing out loud

Let the Christmas bells ring out with joy

PTO

ANNIE (PRESENTER) Well that is all we have time for, I'm sure you will agree that this story is wonderful and heart-warming. Before handing you back We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

SEBASTIAN (NARRATOR) I'm sure you all will agree that is a great outcome. We do know that Emily now has a place to live and looking into using her drama skills. We can't solve everyone's problems but by showing a bit of kindness and compassion to someone can make a huge difference to someone's life. I think it's time we thanked God and prayed for others. Thank you for joining us.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND INTERCESSION (Zerah)

Let us now come together in our prayers of dedication and prayers for other people

A prayer of dedication:

*Living God,
Take our bodies and let them work for you
Take our minds and let them dream for you
Take our hearts and let them beat for you
Take our spirits and let them soar for you
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen*

A prayer for others:

*Lord Jesus Christ,
You know what it is to have nowhere to lay your head.
Hear then our prayers for those who are homeless,
Who live as refugees, or who are forced to live in poor housing.
Challenge us to support the work of all who help them
Help us to challenge those in authority to do all they can to provide
somewhere for everyone to call home.*

Lord Jesus Christ

You know what it is to be poor,

We pray for those who hunger for food and thirst for water,

In our world of rich and poor

Create a yearning for change and a passion for justice,

And may that begin in us

Help us to be willing to share with others and identify with the poor

And so mark us out as your people to the glory of your name

Amen

We will now close our service with the final Hymn, Joy to the world

Hymn: CH4 320: Joy to the World

THANKS (Amos)

BENEDICTION (Amos)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY