



A Preschool/Kindergarten Christmas Service

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Our Jesus Tree

Our Jesus Tree is written for preschool and kindergarten children to share with friends and families. This short presentation will give the children and assembly an opportunity to praise their Lord with recitations and songs that tell the story of God's love for us.

The program focuses on a small tree standing front and center in the room. The tree has been wired for tree lights but they remain off until the program has ended. Children place ornaments on the tree as the program progresses. These ornaments have been made by the children ahead of time. (Templates with two sizes of ornaments are included on this disk.) If you have more than seven children just have several make the same ornament and they can all place them on the tree when their ornament is called upon. (It is suggested that only one crown is made.)

The two main songs that the children sing ("*Two Hands to Tell the Story*" and "*I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*") come with CD accompaniments that are also included on this disk. **NOTE: Because of the length of "*Two Hands to Tell the Story*", there is provided on the accompaniment CD both a two verse and a four verse accompaniment. If you wish to sing only two verses, it is suggested you sing stanzas one and four.**

You will also find a file for an invitation that the children can give to family and friends. **Notice** that the invitation has been designed for you to actually type in the time and date on your computer and it will print out on your sheets.

Children love to give presents. Have your children color enough bookmarks of *Our Jesus Tree* to give one to each of the visitors in the assembly.

A program cover is also included for you to use.

The Jesus Tree ornaments include:

- Donkey
- Manger
- Star
- Cross
- Empty Tomb
- Staff
- Crown

As with all Kremer Christmas programs, you are free to make any changes, deletions, or substitutions that you wish. This program is completely reproducible.

Our Jesus Tree

(Begin with tree lights off.)

Narrator: It's a busy time of year. We're all hustling and bustling to get everything ready for Christmas. Cookies are baked, lights are hung, carols are sung, and presents are bought. But in the midst of this busy, busy time, our children would like to take a moment to tell you a very important story. We feel that without this story there would be no Christmas to celebrate. But we'd like our empty Christmas tree to help us tell the story. We know Christmas trees can't talk, but our tree will still tell you the story in its own special way.

Children Recite: Come here and see our Jesus Tree
And hear our story true.
It tells us of the Christmas love
That Jesus has for you.

Narrator: Our story begins with our first Jesus Tree ornament. It's a donkey.

(Children hang DONKEY ornaments on tree.)

Children Sing: "A Donkey Took Mary to Bethlehem"

(To the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes" / "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush")

A donkey took Mary to Bethlehem, to Bethlehem, to Bethlehem.

A donkey took Mary to Bethlehem, all tired, sad and worn.

And when they got to Bethlehem, to Bethlehem, to Bethlehem,

And when they got to Bethlehem, her baby boy was born.

Narrator: Let's read together the wonderful Christmas story that tells us about that long, long trip.

Assembly: "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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son."

Assembly Sings: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy darkness shineth the everlasting Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel!*

Narrator: Let's continue with our Jesus Tree. We see that our next ornament is a manger. Tell us, why do we hang a manger on our tree?

(Children hang MANGER ornament on tree.)

Children Recite: "She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Children 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 sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.*

Narrator: But that's not the end of our Christmas story yet. After Jesus was born some shepherds in the fields nearby were given a visit by God's angels. They told the shepherds that the Savior was born in Bethlehem.

A while later, God decided to also tell the Good News to some other men who lived far away. They were some special kings from the East who next came to visit Jesus. These men were led by a very special star God put in the sky.

(Children hang STAR ornament on tree.)

Children Sing: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

(To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
Led the Wise Men from afar.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
Led the Wise Men from afar.*

Two Hands to Tell the Story

Words & Music by Reynold R. Kremer
Arranged by Charles Cushinery

$\text{♩} = 120$

The piano introduction consists of 12 measures in 3/4 time, marked with a tempo of quarter note = 120. The music is in G major and features a steady accompaniment in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand.

1. 'Twas long time a - go on a
2. shep- herds were watch - ing their
3. shep- herds ran down - from their
4. know who that ba - by is

The first system of the vocal entry includes four lines of lyrics. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. The vocal line begins with a half note rest, followed by a quarter note on the first syllable of each line. The piano accompaniment provides a steady accompaniment.

bed made of straw that a ba- by was
sheep late at night they saw heav - en break
hill - side in that haste won - d'ring what they would
there in that man - ger I know in my

The second system of the vocal entry includes four lines of lyrics. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. The vocal line continues with quarter notes and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment provides a steady accompaniment.

placed by a mo - ther so mild. Who
o - pen in with songs all round. As
find heart in that place filled with love. They
heart in it is is Jo - sus, a lone. Who

The third system of the vocal entry includes four lines of lyrics. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. The vocal line concludes with a half note. The piano accompaniment provides a steady accompaniment.

knew in her heart that this ba - by now
 thou - sands of an - gels sang glo - ry to
 peeked in, and the saw Him, 'twas just as it
 brought me the gift of my sins all for-

REFRAIN

sleep-ing was God with a had been an -
 giv - en so tru - ly Gods' beau - ti - ful,
 nounced by the I can make on - ly heav-en - ly
 an - gels a - heav-en my child. sound. bove.
 home. I've

two eyes to see God's glo-ry. Two feet that He can

use. I've two ears to hear of that won-der-ful sto-ry And

(☺ Last Time Only)

two hands to tell the news.

Fine

This system contains the first system of music. It features a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics "two hands to tell the news." are written under the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line with chords in the left hand. The system concludes with the word "Fine" centered below the piano part.

2. While
3. Those
4. I

This system contains the second system of music. It features a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs) and a vocal line on a single treble clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and bass line as the first system. The vocal line is mostly blank, with a few notes at the end. To the right of the piano part, there is a list of lyrics: "2. While", "3. Those", and "4. I".