

Messy Church Christmas at home celebration 2020

Let's start by singing:

Come and join the celebration

Chorus

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

Verse 1

See, the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem,
Gaze in wonder
At the Son of God who lay before them

Chorus

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

Verse 2

Wise men journey,

Led to worship by a star
Kneel in homage
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

Chorus

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

Verse 3

"God is with us"
Round the world the message bring
He is with us
"Welcome", all the bells on earth are
pealing

Chorus

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

Talk:

Hello everyone, welcome to our Christmas Messy Church and children & family celebration!

Some of you have been very busy the last week, making all of the activities from our Messy Church bags. Today, I'm going to use some of the things I have made to tell the story of the birth of Jesus, and you can find this story in the new testament book of Matthew or Luke, right at the beginning. Perhaps you would like to pause this video here while you get your characters you have made so that you can join in at home?

IN THE TOWN OF NAZARETH LIVED A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED **MARY**.

ONE DAY **AN ANGEL** CAME TO VISIT HER, "DON'T BE AFRAID" SAID THE ANGEL, "YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A BABY; GOD'S OWN SON. YOU WILL BRING GOD'S BLESSINGS TO THE WORLD"

MARY WAS VERY SURPRISED, BUT SHE AGREED. "I WILL DO WHAT GOD WANTS" SHE SAID.

WHEN **JOSEPH** HEARD MARY'S NEWS, HE WAS WORRIED.

THEN THE **ANGEL** SPOKE TO HIM IN A DREAM. "TAKE CARE OF MARY", SAID THE ANGEL. "HER BABY IS GOD'S OWN SON. HE WILL BRING GOD'S BLESSINGS TO ALL THE WORLD."

JOSEPH WAS VERY PUZZLED BUT HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF MARY.

TOGETHER THEY WENT TO TAKE PART IN THE GREAT COUNTING OF PEOPLE THAT WAS BEING DONE. THEY WENT TO BETHLEHEM.

THE TOWN WAS A VERY BUSY PLACE. JOSEPH SEARCHED FOR A ROOM FOR THEM BUT ALL THE ROOMS WERE TAKEN.

THE ONLY PLACE A KIND **INNKEEPER** OFFERED THEM WAS A STABLE.

IT WAS CLEAN AND DRY AND MARY WAS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO REST.

THAT NIGHT MARY GAVE BIRTH TO **BABY JESUS**. SHE GENTLY WRAPPED HIM IN A WARM BLANKET, AND SNUGGLED HIM DOWN TO SLEEP IN A MANGER FULL OF STRAW.

OUT IN THE FIELDS NEARBY, **SHEPHERDS** WERE WATCHING THEIR SHEEP. AN **ANGEL** APPEARED. "DO NOT BE AFRAID" SAID THE ANGEL. TONIGHT, IN BETHLEHEM, A BABY HAS BEEN BORN: GOD'S SPECIAL KING, WHO WILL BRING GOD'S BLESSINGS TO THE WORLD." THEN ALL THE ANGELS SANG TOGETHER FOR JOY.

THE SHEPHERDS WENT TO BETHLEHEM, THEY FOUND MARY AND THE BABY JUST AS THE ANGEL HAD SAID.

FAR AWAY, **WISE MEN** SAW A SPECIAL **STAR** IN THE NIGHT SKY. "IT IS A SIGN THAT A NEW KING HAS BEEN BORN," THEY SAID. "WE MUST GO AND FIND HIM".

THE STAR LED THEM TO THE PLACE WHERE JESUS WAS.

THEY BROUGHT HIM GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

MARY SMILED. THE GIFTS FOR JESUS WERE GIFTS FOR A KING. "THE KING WHO WILL BRING GOD'S BLESINGS TO THE WORLD." SHE SAID TO HERSELF.

MARY KEPT ALL THESE MEMORIES IN A SPECIAL PLACE IN HER HEART AND SHE SAID THANK YOU TO GOD FOR HER PRECIOUS BABY.

Talking to God:

Dear God, we have had lots of fun making all these characters from the story of Jesus' birth. As Christmas day approaches, help us to put Jesus into the centre of our celebrations, by doing what he taught us, being kind to each other, sharing what we have, thinking of others before ourselves, and showing your love to others in any way that we can. Amen.

Let's sing again;

Song: Away in the manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me lord Jesus I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Before I go, I'd just like to remind you if you would like to join in our Sundayclub zoom sessions, you will need the link, so please phone or message me. 07511950633. Also, we are not having Christingle services this year, but we are giving away DIY Christingles in a bag on 23rd Dec. 2-4pm at the church. Please let me know if you would like this.

Prayers and blessings.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

Messy Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *(Hold out hands as if expecting a present)* And the love of God *(Put your hands on your heart)*

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit *(Hold hands)*

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! *(raise hands together on the Amen)*