



If this talk is used with the [#Christmasfeels nativity play](#), then this script will need to be cut right down to make it short enough to suit your congregation.

Aim

Christmas is a wonderful chance to indulge the senses. The first Christmas was the ultimate sensual overload as glorious angels sent wide eyed shepherds to a stinking stable to find a new born baby.

Faith in kids looks like... families who can imagine touching their new born Messiah. He is real so they now feel the joy that their Lord and rescuer has been born.

A potential outline of service:

- Welcome & opening prayer
- Song (traditional carol)
- Intro video ([Download from the Faith in Kids Youtube channel](#))
 - Followed by a few sentences to introduce the big idea of the service.
- Reading 1: Luke 2: 8-14
- Talk part 1: **See the light**
- Song: O come all ye faithful
- Talk part 2: **Hear the song**
- Song: Happy Happy Day by Colin Buchanan (or another children's Christmas song) *performed by the children at the front.*
- Reading 2: Luke 2: 15-20
- Talk part 3: **Touch the baby**
- Song (traditional carol)
- Talk part 4: **Shout the news**
- Chance to chat: Which can you feel?
- Prayers (*Led by a family*)
- Song (traditional carol)
- Closing Prayer

I want to take you through just a few verses from Luke's true story of the life of Jesus. His book is full of things that real people saw and heard and touched. He wrote about the first Christmas so carefully, so beautifully, so well, that I think... together... it will be as if we are actually there seeing, hearing, touching and shouting about that first Christmas. At the end I'm going to ask which of those you find the most thrilling. Listen carefully.



1. See the light (v8-12)

You know it's Christmas when the twinkling fairy lights come on. Turn on a large festoon of fairy lights.

All of us have some lights on our Christmas tree. Sometimes you see a house covered in them. What a sight! Magical. It must be Christmas when you drive past and see a huge inflatable Father Christmas, the lit up sleigh in the garden and the lights falling like snow down the side of the house. Brilliant!

*The **first** Christmas was the ultimate Christmas illumination - See the light! Turn out as many lights as you can, if they're not already. Shepherds were out on the hills in total darkness. The only light was the glow of their fire, burning the few twigs they could find. Just enough light to make out the face of the person you're talking to.*

Into that darkness...

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

We think of angels going with Christmas, like Brussel sprouts go with Roast Turkey. But angels are never normal or expected. This angel was terrifying. This light was so bright that no power station could power it. This is the glory of God: his absolute awesome magnificence. Got a very bright stage lamp to turn on? Just like the sun makes every light bulb look a bit lame, so God's glory makes the sun look like God's little torch.

[Powerpoint] *The angel said, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'*

God spoke into a dark and broken world with a message of joy. That message of joy is still good news for all people. However you feel today, there can be joy this Christmas. There are lots of things that make us feel sad or afraid. But God's light brings joy into a dark and broken world. The good news of Christmas is so wonderful it's like a light that dazzles.

This Christmas, see the light that brings great joy

2. Hear the song (v13-14)

You know it's Christmas when you sing 'O come all ye faithful'! It makes me smile when we do that bit at the end of each verse...

- *'O come let us adore him' whisper singing, as if we don't want anyone to hear it.*



- *'O come let us adore him' singing like we know what we're doing,*
- *'O come let us adore him' shouting singing, like the football crowd has just run into the room with 'Christ the Lord' stuck on the end, totally out of tune. I read on Twitter that one man thought he was singing, "Christ is Loud"*

Can we try that again? Admit it, you've always wanted to.

- *First one, just women and children to whisper sing*
- *Second one, sing normally, nicely, beautifully. In tune.*
- *Then the men come in, and we all imagine we're on the terraces. And don't forget the 'Chriiiiist the Lord'*

[Lead a sing through, probably a couple of times. Leave the congregation sat down, so children can see. Smile at them with a huge grin, until they start smiling back! Encourage them!]

Did you feel the warmth inside? Did it make you smile? For a moment, were you singing with all your might? It's a fantastic feeling. Carol services are good for that. It's why churches are full at Christmas: We get to sing with so many others that we can't hear our own voices.

*The **first** Christmas was the ultimate Christmas singalong - Hear the song! Listen to what happened:*

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

[Powerpoint] *'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'*

*The army of angels knew what to do! When God is sending good news of great joy to all people, you sing! Big lungs. Big voices. Big smiles. Because now it is possible to have peace with God. A broken world, desperately trying to live without God, finds out that suddenly the war can be over. That's the story of Christmas. God came to **us**, offering **us** a way to be friends with **him**.*

Me, a friend of God's? You? It's possible because of Christmas

There is a reason to sing. God sent his son to bring peace.

This Christmas, hear the song that praises God

3. Hold the baby (v16)

[Hold a wrapped present in your hands. At least the size of a shoebox.]

You know it's Christmas when you feel the present in your hands. The thrill never wears off. Seeing the presents gather under the tree. Taking a sneaky peak to see which ones are for me. But not being able to open them. Rattling it and wondering. But then on Christmas day, you get



to take it. Hold it. Pull off some of the wrapping paper. Pull off the sellotape. Rip off a piece of wrapping paper. It feels great. It's yours!

*The **first** Christmas was the ultimate Christmas feeling- Hold the baby. Listen to what the angels did next.*

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. In a rush. Where is he? Can it be true? Found him! Mary and Joseph, with the baby- exactly as they were told he would be- lying in a manger. And if the angels had got that right then, the rest must be true as well.

*Today in the town of David a **Saviour** has been born to you; he is **the Messiah, the Lord**. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'*

This baby was

- *A saviour. Their rescuer from their brokenness.*
- *The promised Messiah. The final, forever King.*
- *The Lord. God himself, in a human body that they could see and touch.*

[Reveal a baby doll from inside the present. Cradle it in your arms And here they were. Holding their own Saviour. Stroking the Messiah's head. Pushing their finger into the grip of God's little fingers.]

It's finally happened. The waiting is over, for the shepherds and us. We have a Saviour, a King, God himself come to us. He's yours! To worship. To enjoy.

This Christmas, hold the baby that is for you.

4. Shout the news (17-18)

You know it's Christmas when English people talk to strangers. For one day a year we say Happy Christmas to people we've never met. We smile broadly at people we'll never see again. And have a friendly conversation with whoever we're standing next to. If you don't believe me go for a walk on Christmas Day and play the game, "How cheerful and talkative can I be, before strangers get nervous?"

*The **first** Christmas was the ultimate Christmas conversation with strangers. The shepherds didn't just wish people Happy Christmas. Listen...*

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.



And after all that they have seen and heard and touched, it's amazing what they want to talk about.... It's what they 'had been told about the child'. They're not talking about the angels, or the blinding light, or even the bizarre choice of cot for the baby. They want to talk about who the baby is - what they had been told about him. He is the Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord. And they want everyone to know. Because you would wouldn't you, if this is true?

If you held a baby prince, in your arms, a future King, I think you would tell most of your friends: Instagram and Facebook.

But if you held your own creator in your arms, if you shared a room with the one who had been born with the purpose of saving you for Heaven, to enjoy the next million years at peace with God, you can see why these shepherds would interrupt anyone they could find.

If we know for sure who this baby is, then like the shepherds, we'll never be the same again.

This Christmas, shout the news that our Saviour has been born.

Chance to chat: *So I warned you! In just a moment you're going to turn to the person you came with, or talk to your neighbour (because we do that at Christmas!). 2 minutes to decide...*

[Powerpoint]

1. *Which part of the story makes you feel most excited?*
 - *the bright light that brings joy*
 - *the song that praises God*
 - *holding God himself in a baby's body*
 - *shouting the news that our Saviour has been born*

2. *What does this story make you want to*
 - *sing (to praise God)?*
 - *shout (to tell others)?*

Two minutes to chat... Go! [Take some answers afterwards.]