Room for One More

CAST

GRANDPARENT
GRANDCHILD
INNKEEPER
ANGEL OF THE LORD
ANGELES (can be one part in unison or divided)
2 SHEPHERDS
SHEEP
LAMB
The Holy Family (non-speaking roles)
   MARY
   JOSEPH
   JESUS

Props Needed:
Bed with bedding
Large book made out of poster board titled CHRISTMAS STORIES

Setting:
Time: Present
Place: Children’s Bedroom, and ancient Bethlehem.
In a separate area from the stage, a bed is made up, with the GRANDCHILD tucked in bed. Next to the bed is a chair with the GRANDPARENT, reading a large book titled CHRISTMAS STORIES.
The stage is set to represent the scenes from Bethlehem taking place in the story.

Scene 1

GRANDPARENT
(reading from CHRISTMAS STORIES book, reading the end of A Visit from Saint Nicholas:)
And I heard him exclaim, as he rode out of sight, “Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.” (closes the book)

GRANDCHILD
Aw, can’t we read just one more?

GRANDPARENT
It’s your bedtime, and it’s Christmas Eve.

GRANDCHILD
Just one more story, please?
GRANDPARENT
Well, I guess there is time for just one more. (Opens the book) Ah, how could I have forgotten? This is the most important Christmas story of all, because it’s the story of how Christmas came to be:

(an INNKEEPER enters one side of the stage, Joseph and a pregnant Mary enter from the other side)

GRANDPARENT
A long time ago, in a place far away
Many were gathering in Bethlehem to stay
The Emperor declared a Census be taken
All the people were counted, so none would be mistaken

There were so many people but not enough room
For one man and woman, a child coming soon
Finally at last they knocked on the door
And the innkeeper said,

INNKEEPER
(quickly after GRANDPARENT)
There’s room for one more

You’ve come a long way, you need your rest
The baby is coming, so come be my guest
I don’t have a bed, not a space on the floor
But out with the animals, we’ll make room for one more

(INNKEEPER, MARY and JOSEPH exit the stage)

GRANDPARENT
The innkeeper showed them the stables and hay
And the birth of the baby took place in this way:
Out among the animals, in the dark of the night
All was calm, and all was bright.

(Musical interlude; EVERYONE sings the first verse of Silent Night)
(During the singing, SHEPHERDS enter the stage. ANGEL OF THE LORD also enters the stage, and ANGELS appear on the balcony)

Scene 2

GRANDPARENT
Not very far away there were shepherds that night
Watching over their flocks under the star light
And an angel of the Lord came to them to speak
And the shepherds trembled and their knees felt weak

But the angel said,

**ANGEL OF THE LORD**

*(quickly after GRANDPARENT)*

Fear not! I bring you good news
Do not run away— you’ve got nothing to lose!
For in the city of David a Savior has been born
To save us all, the lost and forlorn

The sign you will know what I say is true
Lying in a manger will be a baby so new
Wrapped in bands of swaddling cloth it will lay
Among the cows and the sheep and dirt and hay

**GRANDPARENT**

And the shepherds were amazed, for now in the sky
Appeared a multitude of the heavenly host up high
The shepherds wondered what all this might mean
The words they had heard and the sights they had seen

The angels praised God and said,

**ANGELS**

*(quickly after GRANDPARENT)*

Peace be to all!
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth big and small
The Messiah has come bringing good news to be heard
Glory to God in the highest, who has given us The Word!
*(ALL ANGELS depart from the room)*

**GRANDPARENT**

The shepherds saw the angels leave from the sky
They looked to each other, they couldn’t believe their eyes,
They said,

**SHEPHERD #1**

*(quickly after GRANDPARENT)*

Who’d have thought such a thing would take place?

**SHEPHERD #2**

*(quickly after SHEPHERD #1)*

Let us go into Bethlehem and see God’s miracle of grace!
GRANDPARENT
So now on to Bethlehem the shepherds made haste
Quickly they went, there was no time to waste!
Into the City of David, crowded as before
With all the people there, God made room for one more

(Musical Interlude; EVERYONE sings the first verse of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”)
(During the singing, the SHEPHERDS pull back the curtain to reveal MARY, JOSEPH
and JESUS, and the LAMB and SHEEP. SHEEP stands near baby JESUS)

Scene 3

GRANDPARENT
The shepherds went swiftly and found the family at rest
Baby Jesus was fast asleep on his mother’s chest
They told Mary and Joseph all the angels had shared
Everyone was amazed at the words that they dared

To proclaim to the world! Christ the Savior has come!
Emmanuel, God with us! It would seem our story is done.
Yet there is one more part of this tale to give
Christ came so that we on earth might now live

And have eternal life, the greatest gift is this love
That God sent his son Jesus down from above
To dwell in our world, to dwell in our heart
Do not forget this, it is the most important part

But there’s just one more point of view to share
What of those many creatures who were able to care
For the wee baby Jesus when a few hours old
Had to stay in a stable, where it was damp and cold?

We don’t know for sure, but our imagination might say,
A sheep might have gone

SHEEP
(quickly after GRANDPARENT)
Baa! I’ll keep him warm this way
My wool is cozy, I’ll just huddle around there
And keep him safe from the chill in the air

GRANDPARENT
It was probably crowded in that very place
With all those animals it was a tight space

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Maybe a little lamb saw the swaddling cloths that he wore
And said in his own way,

   LAMB

There is room for one more!

   GRANDPARENT

So remember there is nothing that our God cannot do
But someone may be in need of your help, too
Whether big or small, whether rich or poor
Remember it may be God knocking at the door

Light shines in the darkness and the angel sings true
And maybe some animals share in the praises too
This is the story of the Christ child we adore
And in our hearts God made room for one more!

(GRANDPARENT closes book)

   GRANDCHILD

I think we should sing one last carol—it’s Christmas Eve!

   GRANDPARENT

What song would you like to sing before I leave?

   GRANDCHILD

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king”

   GRANDPARENT

“Let every heart prepare him room,”

   ALL CAST

“And heaven and nature sing!”

(EVERYONE sings Joy to the World! The Lord is Come)