Intergenerational Worship

Bible Reading (+ optional song)

Year A – Christmas Proper 1 Dec 24-25 Luke 2:1-20

What is this: Intergenerational Bible Reading

Where it’s used: Christmas celebrations, assemblies, services; any intergenerational gathering, but specifically Lectionary based gatherings.

Time: 5 minutes

Bible Focus/theme: Luke 2:1-20

What’s needed:
- Slides of text with annotations of ‘Big’, ‘Bigger’ etc. as below
- Two presenters

*This reading should be presented by one person completely genuinely as a ‘straight’ presenter. The second person ‘assistant’ should be clearly in exaggerated mime character. Some kind of simple costuming (all black, for example) will help define their role. This character will use large exaggerated actions to express the point in the text that refer to ‘Big’ and ‘Small’ things in the text. Use a range of generic ‘Big’ and ‘small’ actions, but vary these slightly to interpret the text.

Introduction

Our Bible reading today tells of one of the biggest moments in the whole of God’s story…but it’s the moment in which God comes as the smallest child.

As we read, we are going to listen for the Big stuff, as well as how God cares about the small stuff, just as much. My assistant here is going to help us keep track of the Big things (assistant extended arms to maximum breath exaggerating the strain it takes) and the little things. (assistant exaggerated action of straining to see something miniscule held between their thumb and forefinger.)

The reading is from Luke chapter 2, verses 1 to 20.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus (Big) that all the world (Bigger) should be registered.
This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. (Big)
All went to their own towns to be registered.
Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth (small)
in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting *(Big – pregnant tummy)*
a child. *(Small – cradle a child)*

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son *(Small)*
and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, *(Big)*
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, *(Bigger)*
and they were terrified. *(Small)*

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news *(Big)*
of great joy *(Bigger)*
for all the people: *(Even bigger)*
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you: you will find a child *(Small)*
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” *(Smaller)*

And suddenly there was with the angel *(Big)*
a multitude of the heavenly host, *(Bigger)*
praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” *(Even bigger)*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child *(Small)* lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. *(Small)*
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God *(Big)*
for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Music suggestion:**

**God in a Bod**
The print music has instructions for actions suitable for all primary ages. These should be led, preferably by students who have learned them well and can demonstrate and model them enthusiastically in a ‘larger than life’ way.