

Mary Had a Baby

Script by M'Jean Lund, edited by Jennifer Lund

1. "O Hush Thee, My Baby" (Children's Songbook, p. 48) *RS Choir*

MOTHER: O hush thee, my baby, a story I'll tell, how little Lord Jesus on earth came to dwell. Long, long ago, before you came to me and even before Mary rocked her little Jesus, there lived the first mother. Her name is Eve, and she knew that some day Jesus would come.

EVE: I am Eve. Of me it is said, "She is the mother of all living" (Moses 4:26; Genesis 3:20). Mother of generation after generation of sons and daughters—the spiritual offspring of God. Among them would come the Redeemer. The Lord spoke unto Adam saying, "The name of [the] Only Begotten is the Son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous Judge, who shall come in the meridian of time. Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children" (Moses 6:57-58).

2. "Who is the Child?" (Children's Songbook, p. 46) *All*

MOTHER: Another mother of long ago was Sarah. Sarah was sad that for many, many years she had no child. When she finally held little Isaac, it was because of God's glorious promise.

SARAH: I am Sarah. Even though it seemed as though it could never be, I share with my husband blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant: seed as numerous as the stars in the heavens and the sands of the sea. Abraham was promised great blessings because of his obedience to God's commands, even willingness to sacrifice our precious son Isaac. But an angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad" (Gen. 22:12). Abraham's willingness not to withhold his son was in similitude of God's allowing the sacrifice of His Son at His coming. "Abraham saw of his coming, and was filled with gladness and did rejoice" (Hel. 8:17).

3. "Candlelight Carol" *Vocal Duet* OR "Away in a Manger" duet with Irish Flute

MOTHER: Moses was a special baby sent by God to become the deliverer and lawgiver in Israel. His mother was Jochebed.

JOCHEBED: I am Jochebed. Among the flags by the river's bank I hid my baby in an ark of bulrushes that he might be delivered from the edict of Pharaoh. His life was spared, foreshadowing the deliverance of the babe of Bethlehem from the cruelty of King Herod. He became Moses, prophet in Israel, who stood in the presence of God and talked with him face to face (Moses 1:31), and he bore record that the Son of God should come (Hel. 8:14).

4. "Once Within a Lowly Stable" (p. 41) *All*

MOTHER: Sariah was a faithful mother who bore and nursed little babies in the wilderness. Through the story and testimonies of her family down through the ages, the Lord gave us the Book of Mormon, a beautiful testimony of Jesus.

SARIAH: I am Sariah. In order that a righteous branch of Israel might be preserved, God commanded my husband Lehi that we should depart Jerusalem and travel to the Promised Land. It would be there that the Lord would visit his “other sheep.” In vision Lehi saw “One [Jesus Christ] descending out of the midst of heaven” (1 Nephi 1:9). Our sons Nephi and Jacob added their witness. Nephi was shown by an angel, a vision of the Savior at his birth, and his mother Mary. He testified, “I looked and beheld the virgin..., bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!” (1 Nephi 11:20-21). Nephi and Jacob both saw the Lord. Jacob testified, “he cometh into the world that he may save all men” (2 Nephi 9:21).

MOTHER: Through the ages Sariah’s family remembered that they had traveled from a land far away, and they looked forward to the time when Jesus would be born in their distant homeland. Alma, a great leader, prophesied, “he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall... bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God” (Alma 7:10).

5. “In Holy Light” *Choir* OR “Stars Were Gleaming” (Children’s Songbook p. 37) *All sing*.

MOTHER: Before Mary’s child was born, Father in Heaven sent another little babe who would prepare the hearts of the people. His name was John, and his mother was Elisabeth.

ELISABETH: I am Elisabeth. What a privileged blessing to bear a son, filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb, who would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:15, 17).

6. “Mary’s Lullaby” (Children’s Songbook p.44) *All* OR “Still, Still, Still” *Piano solo*.

MOTHER: The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Mary. He said, “thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.... Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ...Thou shalt... bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest.... And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 28-33).

MARY: “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; ...and I will magnify his name. For his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. ...He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.” (Luke 1:46-55)

MOTHER: The long-awaited glorious time arrived. Mary and Joseph, her husband, had traveled far to Bethlehem. The scriptures tell us that Mary “brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).

7. “Away in a Manger” (Hymns, p .206) *Vocal Solo*

MOTHER: The time of Jesus’ birth was a time of rejoicing. Angels sang, shepherds came, wise men presented him with gifts. Simeon, at the temple, blessed God and said, “For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel” (Luke 2:30-32). Joseph and Mary marveled at those things which were spoken of the child (Luke 2:33). And Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19).

8. “Mary’s Lullaby” (Tonight You Are Mine) *Choir*

MOTHER: Even though little Jesus was born a wee baby, just like you, the prophets told that he came to earth to be king over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9). “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (2 Nephi 19:6; Isaiah 9:6).

9. “Tiny King” *All* OR “O Holy Night”

MARTHA: *story*

MOTHER: My dear child, I love to tell you about Jesus, the Tiny King. Mothers have been telling their little ones the wonderful story from the beginning of creation—because it is true.

10. “Silent Night” (Hymns, p 204) *All*

Note: Martha’s story is attached. I’d prefer a script of the real Martha from the New Testament, but this is the story originally used in this program.

Mary Had a Baby

--Parts--

*Props: Christmas tree, tiny manger with doll, fake baby with script inside (for Mother), rocking chair
8 ladies with only their part and their cue.*

Speaking Parts:

MOTHER:

EVE:

SARAH:

JOCHEBED:

SARIAH:

ELISABETH:

MARY:

MARTHA:

Musical Numbers:

“O Hush Thee, My Baby” (Children’s Songbook, p. 48) : *RS Choir*

“Who is the Child?” (Children’s Songbook, p. 46): *All*

“**Candlelight Carol**” – **John Rutter**: *Vocal Duet*

“Once Within a Lowly Stable” (Children’s Songbook, p. 41): *All*

“**In Holy Light**” – **Chilean Folk Carol, arr. Jeanette Carter**: *Choir*

“Mary’s Lullaby” (Children’s Songbook p.44): *All*

“Away in a Manger” (Hymns, p .206): *Vocal Solo*

“**Mary’s Lullaby**” (**Tonight You Are Mine**) – **Jan Underwood Pinborough**: *Choir*

“**Tiny King**” – **Joyce Elaine Eilers**: *All*

“Silent Night” (Hymns, p 204): *All*

MOTHER

Cue: “O Hush Thee, My Baby” (Children’s Songbook, p. 48) *RS Choir*

MOTHER: O hush thee, my baby, a story I’ll tell, how little Lord Jesus on earth came to dwell. Long, long ago, before you came to me and even before Mary rocked her little Jesus, there lived the first mother. Her name is Eve, and she knew that some day Jesus would come.

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Cue: “Candlelight Carol” *Vocal Duet*

MOTHER: Moses was a special baby sent by God to become the deliverer and lawgiver in Israel. His mother was Jochebed.

Cue: “Once Within a Lowly Stable” (p. 41) *All*

MOTHER: Sariah was a faithful mother who bore and nursed little babies in the wilderness. Through the story and testimonies of her family down through the ages, the Lord gave us the Book of Mormon, a beautiful testimony of Jesus.

Cue: (Sariah) “Jacob testified, “he cometh into the world that he may save all men.”

MOTHER: Through the ages Sariah’s family remembered that they had traveled from a land far away, and they looked forward to the time when Jesus would be born in their distant homeland. Alma, a great leader, prophesied, “he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall... bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God” (Alma 7:10).

Cue: “In Holy Light” *Choir*

MOTHER: Before Mary’s child was born, Father in Heaven sent another little babe who would prepare the hearts of the people. His name was John, and his mother was Elisabeth.

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Cue: (Mary) "...As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever."

MOTHER: The long-awaited glorious time arrived. Mary and Joseph, her husband, had traveled far to Bethlehem. The scriptures tell us that Mary "brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

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Cue: (Martha) *story*

MOTHER: My dear child, I love to tell you about Jesus, the Tiny King. Mothers have been telling their little ones the wonderful story from the beginning of creation—because it is true.

EVE

Cue: “Her name is Eve, and she knew that some day Jesus would come.”

EVE: I am Eve. Of me it is said, “She is the mother of all living” (Moses 4:26; Genesis 3:20). Mother of generation after generation of sons and daughters—the spiritual offspring of God. Among them would come the Redeemer. The Lord spoke unto Adam saying, “The name of [the] Only Begotten is the Son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous Judge, who shall come in the meridian of time. Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children” (Moses 6:57-58).

SARAH

Cue: “When she finally held little Isaac, it was because of God’s glorious promise.”

SARAH: I am Sarah. Even though it seemed as though it could never be, I share with my husband blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant: seed as numerous as the stars in the heavens and the sands of the sea. Abraham was promised great blessings because of his obedience to God’s commands, even willingness to sacrifice our precious son Isaac. But an angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, “Lay not thine hand upon the lad” (Gen. 22:12). Abraham’s willingness not to withhold his son was in similitude of God’s allowing the sacrifice of His Son at His coming. “Abraham saw of his coming, and was filled with gladness and did rejoice” (Hel. 8:17).

JOCHEBED

Cue: “His mother was Jochebed.”

JOCHEBED: I am Jochebed. Among the flags by the river’s bank I hid my baby in an ark of bulrushes that he might be delivered from the edict of Pharaoh. His life was spared, foreshadowing the deliverance of the babe of Bethlehem from the cruelty of King Herod. He became Moses, prophet in Israel, who stood in the presence of God and talked with him face to face (Moses 1:31), and he bore record that the Son of God should come (Hel. 8:14).

SARIAH

Cue: “The Lord gave us the Book of Mormon, a beautiful testimony of Jesus.”

SARIAH: I am Sariah. In order that a righteous branch of Israel might be preserved, God commanded my husband Lehi that we should depart Jerusalem and travel to the Promised Land. It would be there that the Lord would visit his “other sheep.” In vision Lehi saw “One [Jesus Christ] descending out of the midst of heaven” (1 Nephi 1:9). Our sons Nephi and Jacob added their witness. Nephi was shown by an angel, a vision of the Savior at his birth, and his mother Mary. He testified, “I looked and beheld the virgin..., bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!” (1 Nephi 11:20-21). Nephi and Jacob both saw the Lord. Jacob testified, “he cometh into the world that he may save all men” (2 Nephi 9:21).

ELISABETH

Cue: “His name was John, and his mother was Elisabeth.”

ELISABETH: I am Elisabeth. What a privileged blessing to bear a son, filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb, who would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:15, 17).

MARY

Cue: “And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end”

MARY: “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; ...and I will magnify his name. For his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. ...He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.” (Luke 1:46-55)

MARTHA

Cue: “Tiny King” (song)

MARTHA: *story*

Note: Martha’s story is attached. I’d prefer a script of the real Martha from the New Testament, but this is the story originally used in this program.

Martha had tried to ignore the approach of Christmas. She would have kept it almost entirely out of her thoughts if Jed had not come eagerly into the cabin one day, stomping the snow from his cold feet as he said in an excited voice, "Martha, we're going to have a Christmas tree this year, anyway. I spotted a cedar on that rise out south of the wheat field. It's a scrubby thing, but it will do since we can't get a pine.

As she shook her head, Martha noticed that Daniel glanced quickly up from the corner where he was playing, patiently tying together some sticks with bits of string. She drew Jed as far away from the boy as possible.

"I don't want a tree," she said. "We won't be celebrating Christmas. Even a tree couldn't make it the kind of Christmas we used to have."

"Martha, we've got to do something for the boy at least. Children set such store by Christmas."

"Don't you think I know? All those years of fixing things for Maybelle and Stellie. I know all about the kids and Christmas." She stopped and drew a deep breath, glancing over to see that Daniel was occupied and not listening. "But I can't do those things for him. It would be like a knife in the heart, fixing a tree and baking cookies and making things for another woman's child when my own girls are back there on that prairie."

"Martha, Martha," Jed said softly. "It's been almost a year and a half. That's over, and Danny needs you. He needs a Christmas like he remembers."

She turned her back to his pleading face. "I can't," she said.

Jed touched her shoulder gently, "I know how hard it is for you, Martha. But think of the boy." He turned and went back out into the snowy weather.

Think of the boy. Why should she think of him, when her own children, her two blue-eyed, golden-curl'd daughters, had been left beside the trail back there on that endless, empty prairie? The boy came to her not because she wanted him, but, because she couldn't say "no" to the bishop. Bishop Clay had brought Daniel to her and Jed one day and said, "I want you to care for this lad. His mother died on the trek last summer and his pa passed away last week. He needs a good home."

Jed had gripped the bishop's hand and with tears in his eyes, thanked him, but Martha had turned away from the sight of the thin, ragged, six-year old boy who stood before them, not fast enough, however, to miss the sudden brief smile he flashed at her, a smile that should have caught her heart and opened it wide. Her heart was closed, though, locked tightly around the memory of her two gentle little girls. She didn't want a noisy, rowdy boy hanging around, disturbing those memories, filling the cabin with a boy's loud games.

Yet she had taken him, because she felt she had no choice. Faced with the bishop's request—more of an order, really—and Jed's obvious joy, she couldn't refuse.

He had proved himself a great help to Jed, despite his young age. Sometimes Martha felt pity for him, but she didn't love him. With Jed it was different. He had accepted Daniel immediately as his own son and enjoyed having a boy with him. They had a special relationship.

Daniel mentioned Christmas only once. One day it was too cold and snowy to play outside and he had been humming softly to himself as he played in his corner. Suddenly, he looked up at Martha and asked, "Can you sing, Aunt Martha?"

Martha paused and straightened up from the table where she was kneading bread. She used to sing for her girls all the time. "No, I can't, Daniel," she said. "Not any more."

"My mother used to sing a pretty song at Christmas," he said. "I wish I could remember it."

On the day before Christmas, Jed went through the deep snow to do some chores for Brother Norton, who was ill. Daniel was alone outside most of the day, although he made several rather furtive trips in and out of the cabin. On one trip, he took the sticks he had been tying together.

Toward evening, Martha went out to the stable to milk Rosie, since Jed had not yet returned. As she approached, she saw there was light inside. Opening the door softly, she peered within. Daniel had lit the barn lantern, and with its glow, he knelt in the straw by Rosie's stall. In front of him were the sticks he had tied together, which Martha recognized now as a crude cradle. It held Stellie's rag doll, all wrapped up in the white shawl Martha kept in her trunk. Her first impulse was to rush in and snatch it, but she stopped because the scene was strangely beautiful in the soft light from the lantern. Rosie and the two sheep stood close by, watching Daniel. He seemed to be addressing them when he spoke.

"The shepherds came following the star," he was saying. "And they found the baby Jesus who had been born in a stable." He paused for a moment, then went on. "And his mother loved him."

Martha felt suddenly that she couldn't breathe. Another mother another day, had loved her boy, and had told him the beautiful story of the Christ Child with such love that he hadn't forgot it, young as he was. And she, Martha, had failed that mother.

In the silence she began to sing. "Silent night," she sang. "Holy night."

Daniel didn't move until the song was finished. Then he turned with that quick heart-melting smile.

"That's the one," he whispered. "That's the song that my mother used to sing to me."

Martha ran forward and gathered the boy into her arms. He responded immediately, clasping his arms tightly around her.

"Danny," she said, "Let's go in and get the cabin ready for Christmas. Maybe it isn't too late for Jed—for Pa—to get that tree. It might be a little different kind of Christmas, but it will still be a little like the Christmases we used to know."

"Do you mind it being different?" Danny asked. "I mean with a boy instead of your girls?"

Martha wondered how long it would take her to make up to him for the hurt she had inflicted these many months. "No," she said. "After all, the Baby Jesus was a boy."