

Hatch Patch Creations

Family Home Evening Made Easy

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Mary & Joseph Family Home Evening Packet



Contents:

Story

Picture Sheets

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Scripture

Treat Recipe

\$7.00

Mary And Joseph Family Home Evening Packet

Home Evening Outline

- Opening Prayer
- Opening Song
- Scripture

Story

Game

Closing Song

Closing Prayer

Refreshments

Suggested Songs: "He Sent His Son", pg. 34 (Childrens)

"Picture A Christmas", pg. 50 (Childrens)

"Away In A Manger", pg. 206 (Hymn)

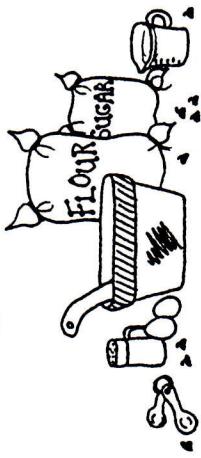
"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful", pg. 202 (Hymn)

Scriptures: Luke 2:10-11, Isaiah 9:6

Story: We have provided two different versions of the Birth of Christ story. One is for older children and adults, and the other is a more simplistic version for smaller children. Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc. Use flannel, or laminate and cut out and place magnets on back of graphics, etc.

Service Project Activity: We have included a list of wonderful service oriented activities to do throughout the month of December. Service projects are a great way to teach children charity, kindness and the spirit of giving.

Christmas Sugar Cookies



Cookie Ingredients

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 5 cups flour

Cream together sugar and butter. Add eggs, baking powder and vanilla. Alternate milk and flour into mixture until well blended. Roll out dough on a floured surface until it's about 1/4 inch in thickness. Cut out with Christmas shaped cookie cutters and bake on a greased cookie sheet for 10 minutes at 375 . Top cookies with your favorite frosting or try ours:

Frosting Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

Cream butter, powdered sugar, vanilla and cream cheese. Color with red or green food coloring.



Mary & Joseph



I have often pondered the events of that year long ago. How could I, a lowly carpenter, be chosen to be the earthly father for the Savior of the world? What could I have ever done or accomplished in my lifetime to be given such an honor?

I had wanted his birth to be so special and I worried about Mary constantly. Then the news came that we must travel to Bethlehem to pay our taxes and it seemed an impossible task. How could my Mary travel the long distance on the back of a donkey when she was so close to delivering her little son? But I knew also, that her life and that of the Christ Child she carried were totally in the hands of God. Together, we set out on the long journey to Bethlehem.

The roads were rough and the donkey became weary quickly, carrying his heavy load. We had to stop along the way many times so that he could rest. Mary was so patient, both with me and the little burro. Her face glowed through the fatigue that she felt. She shone with the spirit of the Lord. I was in constant amazement at the calmness she showed when she knew of the events that would not only take place soon but also the events that would happen long into the future.

Soon we could see the glow of the city of Bethlehem. Mary was feeling uneasy and uncomfortable as we entered the city gates. She quietly leaned down to me as I held the rope that led the donkey over the cobbled stones. "I think the time has come, Joseph," she whispered.

As I gazed around me, I could see that the city was bustling with people from all the surrounding cities. My heart jumped as I realized that I might not be able to find a room in which to stay. I helped Mary from her perch on the little donkey and found a place for her to sit while I walked the main streets of Bethlehem, looking for somewhere to go.

Every inn was full, every available room occupied. Fear filled my soul as I realized that I was responsible for the birth of this precious child and I was failing at the first important task. What would we do? How could I allow the Son of God to be born anywhere but a well-kept room in a nice inn? I felt inept and unworthy.

I returned to Mary's side and could tell from some distance away that time was of the essence now. Her sweet face was pulled tight as she winced at the labor her body was experiencing. She gazed up at me, her eyes pleading for some good news, but she could tell from my countenance that I had failed.

"I'll find some place to go, Mary." Joseph helped her to her feet, slipping her gentle arm into his. "I have been told of a stable nearby. I don't think we will be able to find anything else in time." Mary nodded her approval.

Moments later, they approached the opening of the stable. The smells of animals greeted them as they moved slowly and deliberately into the darkness. Joseph carried a torch to light up the area and handed it to Mary as he pushed animals aside and brushed the stragglers of straw to the corners of the room. It was not the best of places Joseph had seen, but it would be okay.

Joseph built a bed of straw on the floor for Mary and borrowed a hay manger from one of the coves that had been sectioned for the animals. He placed clean threads of hay in the manger, fluffing it as he filled it. He motioned for Mary to come to take her bed in the straw.

It seemed like forever to Joseph but soon the muffled cries of a tiny infant floated through the night air. Joseph held the chosen baby securely in his strong arms. He looked into the face of the Son of God and quivered just a little as he thought of the magnitude of it all.

The animals drew near as if they understood, but these wonderful moments of solitude between Joseph, Mary and the baby soon came to an end. Just as had been foretold, a glorious star shown above them in the heavens, signaling to the world the birth of Jesus Christ. Joseph stepped back for a second, just to take it all in. Shepherds from the hills of Bethlehem suddenly appeared inside the stable, pleading for a look at the Christ Child. The spirit of the Lord filled the tiny room, spreading a sweetness throughout the crowd. The strains of beautiful music were heard as angels from heaven sang with great feeling and magnificence. Joseph knew that there would never be a moment like this in his entire life again. "How great God is." He thought. How thankful he was to be part of this glorious event!

As guests from various places and lands arrived to witness the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary pondered everything in their hearts. Joseph could not take his eyes off the baby. He knew that this child was the epitome of perfection and Joseph loved him as if he were his very own.

The thoughts winding through his mind were somewhat overwhelming as Joseph attended to Mary and the baby. He determined then and there, that he would be there for Jesus. He would love him and teach him, and he would lean heavily on his Father in heaven for guidance. His gaze fell upon Mary, cradling the blessed infant in her arms. The look on Mary's face was one that Joseph never wanted to forget. He thought, "Oh, how could one man possibly feel these tremendous surges of love and spirit and survive?"

The soft glow of the stable permeated all the visitors there and a calmness filled the air over Bethlehem as the Savior of the world slept in his Mother's arms and all was well. Joseph wept.

Mary & Joseph

(Younger Children)

For many years, people had been told about the birth of Jesus Christ. Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of the Savior and Joseph, the carpenter, was chosen to be his earthly father. An angel of the Lord came to visit Mary to tell her of all the wonderful things that were going to happen.

It was almost time for Mary to give birth to Jesus when she and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. It would be a very long, hard journey but Mary knew that it was something that had to be done and she didn't complain. She rode on the back of a gentle donkey all the way to Bethlehem.

When they arrived, Mary was very tired and so was the donkey. She just wanted to rest but Joseph couldn't find anyplace to stay. There were so many people who had come to the city to pay their taxes and all the inns were full. It wasn't looking very good for them.

Joseph was told about a stable nearby that could possibly be used for a night's rest. He was very worried because Mary was showing signs that her baby was probably going to come soon.

They hurried to the stable and Joseph quickly prepared it the best he could. He spread clean hay on the floor and took a manger that was used to feed the animals there and filled it with straw. It was the best he could do.

Soon the tiny baby was born and his little cries were so wonderful to Mary and Joseph! Mary cuddled Jesus in her arms to keep him warm. She had wrapped him in swaddling clothes. A bright and wonderful star shown above them. It was a sign to the world that Jesus Christ had been born, so it wasn't long before many people began arriving to see the tiny child. The shepherds in the hills of Bethlehem had also been told by an angel that the baby would be born and that they should go see him. They hurried to the stable. All the animals gathered close to watch over the little boy.

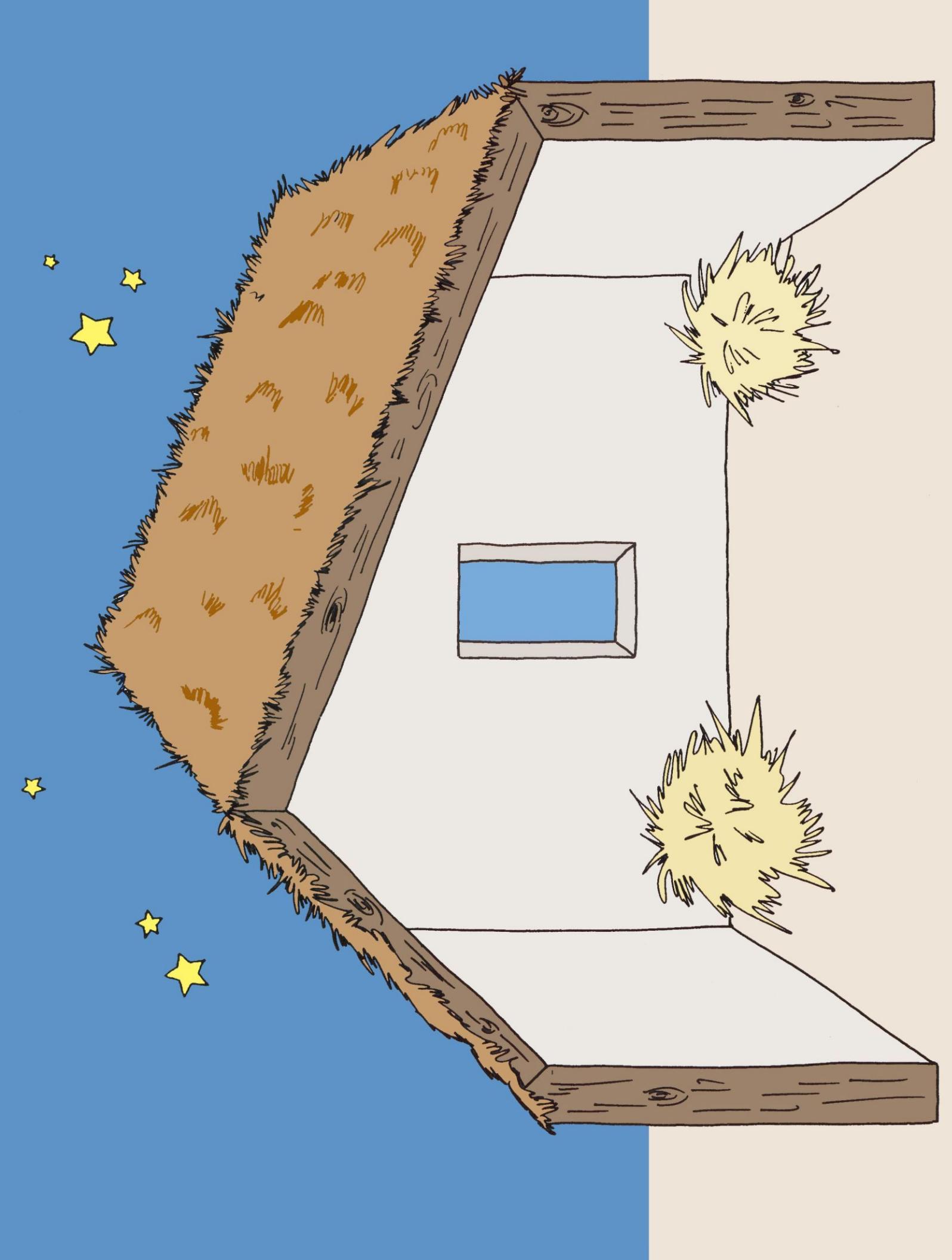
It was a magnificent night and choirs from heaven sang glorious songs to the baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph loved little Jesus and took such good care of him as the visitors gazed upon him.

Jesus wasn't born in an expensive hotel or even a nice inn. He was born in a humble stable where animals lived. He was a little child, just like you and me. He loves you very, very much. He is always there for you. He will help you and guide you and care for you. Never forget that.

DISCUSSION

- What is a stable?
- What is a shepherd?
- Why was Jesus called a shepherd?
- What can we do to show our love for the Christ Child?



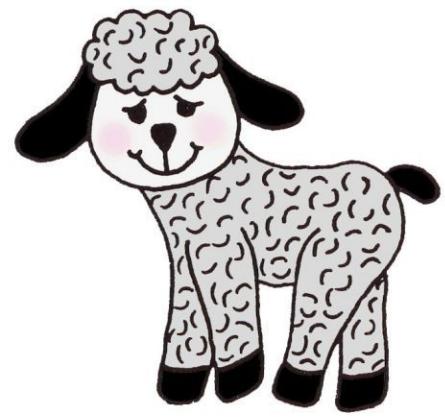
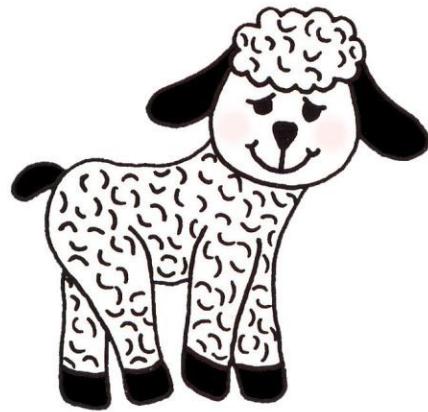
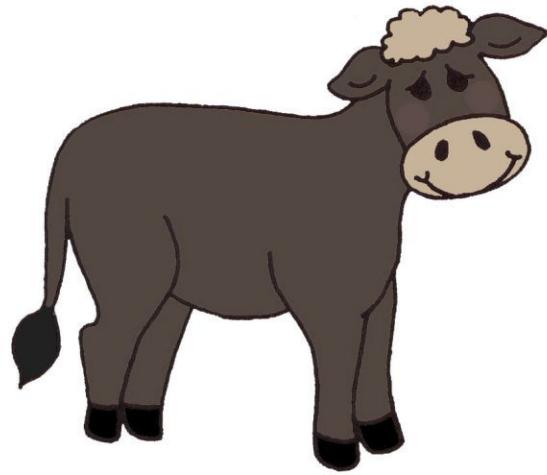


Galatians 6:2

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Service Project Ideas

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1. Find or build a small manger. For each act of service a family member performs either for another family member or someone outside the family, place 1 piece of straw (or raffia if straw is not available to you) inside the manger. Try and fill the manger with enough straw to lay the baby Jesus in on Christmas Eve.
 2. Take cookies to all the widows in your ward or area
 3. Shovel an elderly person's driveway or walks.
 4. Decorate a small Christmas tree and take it to a widow or widower in your ward.
 5. Take a meal to a shut in or sick person.
 6. Choose a needy family to do the "Twelve Days of Christmas" for.
 7. Go Christmas caroling to the widows and widowers in your area.
 8. Make a quilt for a shut in.
 9. Make a baby quilt and donate it to your local hospital's baby unit.
 10. Go caroling at a local rest home.
 11. Make small Christmas items for people in a rest home.
 12. Volunteer at your local hospital for a day.
 13. Write letters to all the missionaries in your area.
 14. Have each family member gather spare change, and drop it off in a "Salvation Army" bucket.
 15. Have each child donate one of their gifts to a local Walmart "Sub For Santa" program.
 16. Give a box of groceries anonymously to a needy family in your area.
 17. Volunteer at your local soup kitchen for a day to help feed the needy.
 18. Go caroling around your neighborhood and collect canned food items for your local food bank.
 19. Take hot chocolate and cookies to a sick person in the hospital.
 20. Send Christmas cards to all people in the rest home.
 21. Hand make Christmas cards for someone in the nursing home, then go and help them fill them out, address them to their family members and mail them.
 22. Organize a food scavenger hunt. Contact your bishop or the public health office to find a needy family. Split up into teams. Give a list with nonperishable food items on it. Give each item a point value. Collect as much food as possible and then anonymously deliver to the needy family. You can award the team with the most points some type of prize.
 23. Invite a person who is going to be alone for the holidays over for Christmas Eve.
 24. Write testimonies in a Book of Mormon. Wrap it, and give to someone you care about.
 25. Write Christmas cards to the Savior. Let him know inside the card what gift it is that you are going to give him this year. (Praying daily, reading scriptures, etc.)



“Christ is born today.
Messianic joy comes to all
people.”

The city of David a
manger,

findings of great joy,
which shall be to all
people. For unto you is born this day in

yeart not: for, behold,
bring you good

unto them,

“And the angel said



MARY'S JOSEPH



BY
JUDY CHECKETTS HATCH

Mary's Joseph

(SATB with Alto and Soprano Solos)

*Words and Music by
Judy Checketts Hatch*

*Arranged by Ron Simpson and
Judy Hatch*

Alto solo

1. It was warm in Beth - le - hem that night. The
2. Dark - ness came as Jo - seph wor - ried. The

smell of springtime filled the air
star shone bright - ly ov - er head. The shep - herds wait - ed on the
Ma - ry's mo - ment soon would

hill - side As Jo - seph led the don - key with
come. And still no place to make her a

Soprano solo

care. Ma - ry's face was pale and wea - r - y. She
bed. Jo - seph led them to the sta - ble, clean

yeared to end the long hard ride. But Jo - seph's ef - forts were in
 hay was spread a - bout the floor. The ba - by's man - ger was in

vain.
 place For no one had a room in side.
 as he wished that he could do so much more.

S A But Jo - seph was a spec - ial man, he was

T B

e - qual to the task. For He would love and care for

Mary, he would do as Fa - ther asked. Oh

mf

f

f d. *mf*

f p. *mf*

Chorus

Ma - ry, my sweet Ma - ry, Jo - seph whis - per'd soft and

low. Oh Ma - ry, my dear Ma - ry, I'll

find some place to go. Oh Ma - ry, love - ly

Ma - ry, all will be well with your son. Oh

Musical score for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano, page 7. The score consists of six systems of music. The vocal parts are in common time, 3 flats, with basso continuo markings. The piano part is in common time, 2 flats.

System 1: Soprano: Ma - ry, bless - ed Ma - ry, Fa - ther watch - es o'er his tin - y. Bass: (piano part)

System 2: Soprano: (piano part) Bass: (piano part)

System 3: Soprano: 1. one. Bass: 2. one. (piano part)

System 4: Soprano: (piano part) Bass: (piano part)

System 5: Soprano: (piano part) Bass: (piano part)

System 6: Soprano: (piano part) Bass: (piano part)