

## **DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH**

### **VERSE ONE**

Ding dong merrily on high,  
In heav'n the bells are ringin:  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

### **VERSE TWO**

E'en so here below, below, g  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
By priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

### **VERSE THREE**

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

## **TABLEAU FIVE**

*Mary kneels beside the manger, her hand gently resting on the baby as she soothes him to sleep. Joseph stands behind her, his hand on her shoulder as a symbol of his love and support for her.*

## **REFLECTION THREE**

Like all babies, Jesus would have cried. He was new to the world, he was vulnerable and helpless. He would have needed feeding, keeping warm, keeping safe. Mary, exhausted though she was, would have had her hands full, only able to rest when her baby slept. And sleep he did, tucked up snugly in the hay within the animals' feeding trough whilst they looked on, more likely in confusion than in awe, as the hours slipped by and night gradually turned to day.

*The choir/singers performing 'Sleep Little Child' stand and music starts.*

## **SLEEP LITTLE CHILD**

### **VERSE ONE**

Sleep little child, don't wake  
Till the sun rises in the sky.  
Sleep little child in the manger, don't cry.  
Hushaby, hushaby,  
Rockabye my little child.

### **VERSE TWO**

Dream of the stars high above you,  
As gently they shine through the night,  
Floating above with their soft golden light.  
Hushaby, hushaby,  
Rockabye my little child.

### **VERSE THREE**

While you're asleep warm and cosy,  
The angels will watch from on high,  
And they will sing you a sweet lullaby.  
Hushaby, hushaby,  
Rockabye my little child.

## **TABLEAU SIX**

*Shepherds are gathered on a hillside - perhaps some sitting, some standing, some raised up – looking towards an angel, with other angels behind.*

### **Narrator/s**

Whilst Jesus slept, Mary and Joseph rested.

Elsewhere, others remained awake through the night, keeping their sheep safe on the hills above Bethlehem.