Song Introduction to “Away in a Manger”

Here is an easy, informal reading to be performed before “Away in the Manger”

Reader 1: away

Reader 2: but so near to the outcast

Reader 1: near to the blood of the innocents

Reader 2: near to life, a dangerous mystery

Reader 1: no crib for a bed

Reader 2: 1st century squalor of animals

Both: away

Reader 1: alone

Reader 2: no turning back

Reader 1: the little Lord Jesus

Reader 2: God meshed in skin

Reader 1: helpless Master Infant

Reader 2: laid down His sweet head

Reader 1: the brow of thorns

Reader 2: smitten by bandits, spit upon, mocked

Reader 1: yet eyes still fixed on His love

Reader 2: the stars in the sky

Reader 1: each fixed in place

Reader 2: bold, mighty, universe

Reader 1: the Author: this Infant

Reader 2: full of wonder

Reader 1: as angels, and Abba

Reader 2: proudly, sadly

Reader 1: looked down where He lay

Both: away

Reader 2: relentlessly committed

Both: away

Reader 1: vacating the thrones and crowns of glory

Both: away

Reader 1: the glory of His love

Both: away

Reader 2: humble

Reader 1: Master

Reader 2: Creator

Both: away

Reader 1: matchless mysterious Ruler

Both: Away