

SHOW AND TELL CHRISTMAS

by Mary Ann Smith



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Show and Tell Christmas

A children's program with props

by Mary Ann Smith

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator

Storyteller with Children

10 voices for “Around the World”

Carol child

Advent child

Candle child

Crèche child

Gift child

Card child

Treat child

Santa child

Stocking child

Tree child

4 voices of the Future (Teens or young adults)

Poem Reader and Child

*You may use as many as 24 children or as few as
10 by doubling the parts.*

PRODUCTION NOTES

Summary

A look at Christmas through the years and around the world.

Props

Hymnals, stool for Storyteller and Poem Reader, wood blocks for sound effect of donkey walking, globe, Show-and-Tell items: carol book, Advent calendar or wreath, candle, crèche, gift, Christmas card, cookies and candy cane, Santa Claus, stocking, Christmas tree, apple and knife (Could be cut in half or used whole, to be cut as Poem Reader progresses through the poem).

Carols

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” “Joy to the World,” “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” “O Christmas Tree,” and “The Bells of Christmas”

1 GREETING: Welcome to the Christmas season! It's always a
2 special pleasure to see our church family gathered
3 together during this time of the year — to share holiday
4 joys and to rejoice with all Christians that Christ is
5 born. Let's stand together and sing the Advent hymn,
6 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

7

8 SONG: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

9

10 INTRODUCTION: Well, how did it all get started? Where did
11 Christmas come from, anyway ... and why do we
12 celebrate it the way we do in this day and age? And will
13 there be a Christmas in the future?

14 This is what our program is all about, as our children
15 show-and-tell Christmas — its past, its present, and its
16 future. Some of our church school children have
17 gathered with their teacher to listen to a story of the
18 first Christmas. If we listen very carefully, we might
19 hear sounds that will carry us back to Christmas past —
20 a long, long time ago. (*Off-Stage, wood blocks are used to*
21 *make a "clip clop" sound as the STORYTELLER takes his or*
22 *her place on the stool. CHILDREN gather around him or her.)*

23 STORYTELLER: The woman sighed as she shifted the
24 bundle in her arms. The gentle sway of the donkey had
25 lulled the baby to sleep, but the constant motion only
26 added to the mother's discomfort. It had been before
27 dawn when they left Bethlehem. Where did Joseph get
28 the strength to keep going? He hadn't slept well the
29 night before because of a dream — a dream that warned
30 him to take the family out of Herod's reach, into
31 another country. Mary offered a silent prayer of thanks
32 for this man whose trust in God had been put to the test
33 so many times, and who was now leading them to
34 safety.

35 Her mind turned back to the amazing events that led
36 up to this moment: the strange visit of an angel, the
37 feeling of life stirring within her, the long journey from
38 Nazareth to Bethlehem, and that first cry of her

1 newborn in a stable.

2 The child stirred in his sleep and Mary looked down,
3 remembering how one little shepherd boy had come
4 close to the manger and grasped her baby's tiny hand.
5 It all seemed like a dream, but ... here they were ... and
6 here was God's Son. (*Off-Stage donkey clip clops are faster*
7 *now.*)

8 The donkey moved a bit faster now as Joseph urged
9 him on. They were in rocky desert land, where robbers
10 often hid to ambush travelers — especially travelers
11 carrying gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And ... who
12 knows when Herod's men might track them down.
13 Joseph shuddered at the thought. "Dear God," he
14 whispered, "I've trusted you this far. Please show us the
15 way — for her sake ... and his."

16 The donkey moved on as Mary recalled the
17 appearance of three splendid men — so out of place in
18 such a simple scene — bowing and giving such rich gifts
19 to a little Jewish baby. The shepherds and wise men
20 seemed to know who he was. Someday the whole world
21 would know about this Child-Messiah. (*Off-stage donkey*
22 *steps slow down.*)

23 They had come a long and weary way, but soon they
24 would stop for the night. "Poor little donkey," thought
25 Mary. "You surely deserve a good rest."

26 Looking down at the Child, she murmured, "Such a
27 great responsibility for us ... but such a wonderful gift
28 for everyone!" (*Off-Stage donkey sound effects stop and*
29 *STORYTELLER exits. CHILDREN may remain.*)

30 NARRATOR: Well, that was the first Christmas ... but what
31 is it like today, some two-thousand years later? We don't
32 go to Bethlehem to see a baby. We don't watch sheep by
33 night or hear singing from the sky. We don't hear the
34 sound of camel bells as wise men approach. But ...
35 birthdays are never like the moment of our birth.
36 Birthdays are for remembering that special day, so our
37 Christmas celebrations are naturally different from
38 that first Christmas. (*Picks up the globe.*)

1 Sometimes we think of Christmas as something
2 American — something happening just to us. But
3 Christmas goes on all around the world. In this space
4 age, let's take a quick look at Christmas as it is
5 celebrated in other places on earth. (*Ten VOICES for*
6 *"Around the World" stand up.*)

7 **WORLD VOICE 1:** (*Enters and crosses to microphone.*) Italian
8 and Russian children look for an old woman to bring
9 them gifts. Befan in Italy and Babushka in Russia
10 search for the wise men, but stop at each house along
11 the way to leave gifts for good children ... or bits of coal
12 for naughty ones. (*WORLD VOICE 1 exits as WORLD*
13 *VOICE 2 goes to microphone.*)

14 **WORLD VOICE 2:** In Holland, Dutch children wait for Sinter
15 Klaus to arrive by boat from Spain. Then he rides a
16 white horse to every home where his helper, Black
17 Peter, goes down the chimney with gifts. (*WORLD*
18 *VOICE 2 exits as WORLD VOICE 3 goes to microphone.*)

19 **WORLD VOICE 3:** Christmas carols are sung in many parts
20 of the world. In some countries, families sing these
21 songs as they dance around their Christmas trees.
22 (*WORLD VOICE 3 exits as WORLD VOICE 4 goes to*
23 *microphone.*)

24 **WORLD VOICE 4:** On Twelfth Night, January 6, Spanish
25 children celebrate the wise men's visit by putting
26 barley in their shoes overnight for the wise men's
27 camels. In the morning, the barley is gone, replaced
28 with candy and gifts. (*WORLD VOICE 4 exits as WORLD*
29 *VOICE 5 goes to microphone.*)

30 **WORLD VOICE 5:** In Iran, Christians eat no meat, eggs,
31 milk, or cheese from December first to December
32 twenty-fifth. It's a time of peace and prayer. No gifts are
33 given, but the children always get new clothes. (*WORLD*
34 *VOICE 5 exits as WORLD VOICE 6 goes to microphone.*)

35 **WORLD VOICE 6:** To the people of the Czech Republic,
36 Christmas means the ending of quarrels and the
37 beginning of a new year with friends. Many children
38 still believe St. Nick is let down from heaven on a

- 1 **golden cord, led by an angel.** (*WORLD VOICE 6 exits as*
2 *WORLD VOICE 7 goes to microphone.*)
- 3 **WORLD VOICE 7:** In Poland, thin wafers, stamped with
4 Nativity designs and blessed by the priest, are given to
5 families and friends, much as we exchange Christmas
6 cards. (*WORLD VOICE 7 exits as WORLD VOICE 8 goes to*
7 *microphone.*)
- 8 **WORLD VOICE 8:** December is summer in Australia and
9 New Zealand, so families have their Christmas picnics
10 on the beach! (*WORLD VOICE 8 exits as WORLD VOICE 9*
11 *goes to microphone.*)
- 12 **WORLD VOICE 9:** In Latin America, people go from door to
13 door as Mary and Joseph, seeking shelter. Afterward,
14 children with blindfolds over their eyes use a stick to
15 try to crack open a paper piñata for its candy and gifts.
16 (*WORLD VOICE 9 exits as WORLD VOICE 10 goes to*
17 *microphone.*)
- 18 **WORLD VOICE 10:** In Iraq, Christian families read the
19 Christmas Story. Then, bonfires are lit. The bishop
20 blesses one person with a “touch.” That person touches
21 another in turn, and so on. Finally, everyone has felt
22 the “touch of peace” on Christmas Day. Just think how
23 that “touch of peace” could change history.
- 24 **NARRATOR:** There’s a world of ways to celebrate
25 Christmas. And yet, the spirit is the same everywhere —
26 peace and joy to the world! (*Pause as WORLD VOICE 10*
27 *exits.*) Let’s come back home now and take a look at
28 Christmas — Hometown, USA. What goes on in and
29 around your home that says, “Christ is born! Merry
30 Christmas, everybody!” What are some of the favorite
31 things you and your family use to make it Christmas at
32 your house? It’s time for show-and-tell, as you bring up
33 your items.
- 34 This part of the program is completely unrehearsed, so
35 we hope the following comments will be enjoyed as the
36 children share their items. (*For show and tell, children*
37 *come forward, one at a time.*) A carol is actually a “ring
38 dance.” St. Francis made it popular. Martin Luther and

1 his family sang carols around a tree. Carols were often
 2 sung and danced around a baby in a cradle. Who has a
 3 carol book at their house? (*CAROL CHILD brings one
 4 forward.*) What carol would you like us to sing?

5 **CAROL CHILD:** “O, Come All Ye Faithful.” (*CAROL CHILD
 6 steps back and starts the line of children.*)

7

8 **SONG:** “O, Come All Ye Faithful,” sung by congregation.

9

10 **NARRATOR:** Does anyone have an Advent calendar or
 11 wreath at their house? (*ADVENT CHILD brings one or the
 12 other forward and tells about it. If church Advent wreath is
 13 available, mention it, too. ADVENT CHILD lines up beside
 14 CAROL CHILD.*) Some people put candles in their
 15 windows to represent Jesus as the Light of the World.
 16 Do any of you have Christmas candles at your house?
 17 (*CANDLE CHILD brings candle(s) forward and tells about it,
 18 then joins line.*) Do you know what a crèche is? (*CRECHE
 19 CHILD brings a Nativity scene in and shows it while
 20 NARRATOR says the following*) In the thirteenth century,
 21 St. Francis arranged the first manger scene to bring the
 22 Christmas message to villagers who couldn’t read. One
 23 carol “paints” that scene for us. (*CRECHE CHILD joins
 24 line.*)

25

26 **SONG:** “Away in a Manger.” (*Sung by the children of the nursery
 27 and kindergarten Sunday school classes.*)

28

29 **NARRATOR:** Did you ever get a gift? (*GIFT CHILD comes with
 30 a gift-wrapped package.*) Is this a gift for you, or are you
 31 giving it to someone? (*GIFT CHILD explains.*) Our gifts to
 32 each other should remind us of the gifts the wise men
 33 brought to baby Jesus, who was the gift God gave to all
 34 of us. (*GIFT CHILD joins line.*) Does the mailman bring
 35 anything special to your house at Christmas? (*CARD
 36 CHILD brings up a Christmas card and tells about it, i.e., who
 37 sent it, what designs are on it, etc.*) Just another way of
 38 sharing Christian love with each other. (*CARD CHILD*

1 *joins line.*) Are there any special treats at your house
2 these days? (*TREAT CHILD brings up a cookie box — cookies*
3 *optional — and a candy cane, and tells about them.*) Did you
4 know that in Germany, trees are often decorated with
5 cookies shaped like people, stars, hearts, and things
6 like that? Some look like Chrismons® in dough. What
7 should the candy cane remind us of?

8 **TREAT CHILD:** A shepherd's crook.

9 **NARRATOR:** That's right! A shepherd's crook. (*TREAT*
10 *CHILD joins line.*) Who has a Santa Claus at their house?
11 (*SANTA CHILD brings up a toy Santa and tells about it.*) Did
12 you know that Santa Claus has a different name in
13 almost every country of the world? But wherever he
14 goes, he will always be the spirit of Christmas love.
15 (*SANTA CHILD joins line.*) Uh-oh ... here comes someone
16 with a stocking! Now, what do stockings have to do with
17 Christmas?

18 **STOCKING CHILD:** (*Holds up a stocking and explains*) In
19 Germany, St. Nicholas used to drop gold coins into
20 stockings that were hung up to dry. Sometimes the
21 coins were put into shoes. St. Nick knew that if your
22 shoes and stockings were off, you were in bed and
23 sound asleep! (*STOCKING CHILD joins line.*)

24 **NARRATOR:** Does anyone here have a Christmas tree?
25 (*TREE CHILD enters with a small tree and tells about their*
26 *family's tree.*) Because it stays green all year, the
27 evergreen has always meant life and immortality.
28 Martin Luther was the first to decorate a tree with
29 candles to represent stars that shone through the trees.
30 Let's all sing that favorite carol, "O Christmas Tree."
31 (*TREE CHILD joins line.*)

32

33 **SONG:** "O Christmas Tree." (*Congregation sings all verses.*)

34

35 **NARRATOR:** These are the things that add joy and color to
36 our celebration of Christ's birthday. But we must be
37 very careful not to let all these "extras" get in the way
38 and make us forget what Christmas is all about.



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