

# THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS

*by Mary Ann Smith*



**CHRISTIAN**PUBLISHERS

---

# Copyright Notice

---

**CAUTION:** Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

**AUTHOR CREDIT:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

**PUBLISHER CREDIT:** Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.*

**COPYING:** Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

# **The Road to Christmas**

A Christmas program  
for children

by *Mary Ann Smith*

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**Narrator**

**Reader**

(From one to eight children)

**Four Prophets:**

**Daniel**

**Micah**

**Jeremiah**

**Isaiah**

**Four Sign-Bearers**

**Mary**

**Joseph**

**Innkeeper**

**Child**

**Kindergarten Chorus**

**Nursery Chorus**

**Bethlehem Chorus**

(Grades 1, 3, and 4)

**Poem Readers**

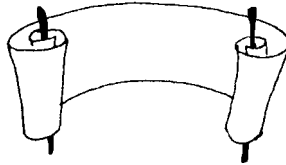
(Grade 2)

### *PRODUCTION NOTES*

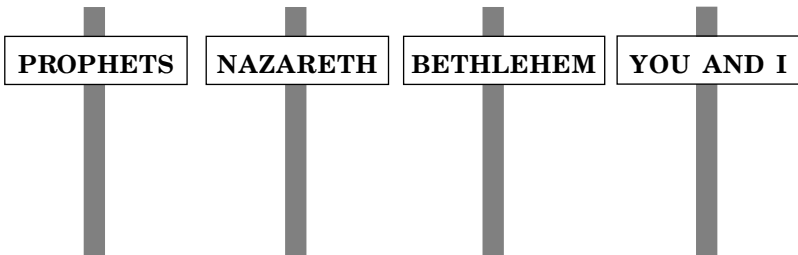
How do we get to Christmas? What signs will there be? This children's program will show you the way through carols, drama, poetry recitation, Scripture, and a responsive litany. It may be used for Advent or Christmas.

**PROPS:** Manger with a baby doll that cries, bells for the Kindergarten Chorus, small radio, wrapped package, tools for Joseph, four Scripture scrolls, and four road signs.

The scrolls should be made from a length of paper approximately twenty inches long by seven inches high. Print the appropriate Scripture verses from each of the prophets onto the paper and then roll both ends toward the center. A nine-inch-long dowel could be fastened at each end to facilitate opening and closing the scrolls.



The signs should be made of cardboard or poster board approximately sixteen to eighteen inches long and seven inches high. The words — Prophets, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and You and I — should be printed on the posterboard with black marker. The signposts may be made from yardsticks painted gray or tan or slats measuring one inch wide and thirty inches long. Fasten each sign onto the signpost approximately two inches down from the top.



**COSTUMES:** Robes (such as choir robes) for the four Sign-Bearers are a nice touch. You will need biblical garb for the Prophets, Mary, Joseph, and the Innkeeper.

**SET:** The only item you'll need other than an area large enough for all your Sunday school children is a Christmas or Chrismon tree — something your church will likely have in place during this time of year.

**MUSIC:** Most of the songs included here are well-known carols. The exceptions are “The Magnificat,” which may or may not be included in your hymnal, and “Come on, Ring Those Bells.” Any version of “The Magnificat” may be used.

One online source is:

[www.members.aol.com/jubilatum2/smcmanus/magnus.htm](http://www.members.aol.com/jubilatum2/smcmanus/magnus.htm)

“Come On, Ring Those Bells” by Andrew Culverwell may be found on [www.musicnotes.com](http://www.musicnotes.com), where you may print digital sheet music. Any song with the theme of bells may be substituted.

1           *(NARRATOR is in place behind podium.)*

2   **OPENING SONG: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

3           O Come, all ye faithful,  
4           Joyful and triumphant,  
5           O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
6           Come and behold him,  
7           Born the King of angels;  
8           O come, let us adore him,  
9           O come, let us adore him,  
10          O come, let us adore him,  
11          Christ, the Lord!

12  
13          Sing, choirs of angels,  
14          Sing in exultation,  
15          O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
16          Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
17          O come, let us adore him,  
18          O come, let us adore him,  
19          O come, let us adore him,  
20          Christ, the Lord!

21  
22          Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
23          Born this happy morning,  
24          Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
25          Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
26          O come, let us adore him,  
27          O come, let us adore him,  
28          O come, let us adore him,  
29          Christ, the Lord!  
30          Amen.

31  
32   **NARRATOR: Hello there! And a very special greeting to**  
33   **each of you from the boys and girls, young people, and**  
34   **adults of our church. From what I’ve been *hearing***  
35   **lately ... *(Listens to small radio)* jingle bells and caroling**

1 ... and what I've been *seeing* ... pretty packages (*Holds*  
 2 *one up*) and fancy trees (*Looks at Christmas or Chrismon*  
 3 *tree*) ... and from all the excitement bubbling up out of  
 4 all the boys and girls, I'm beginning to think that  
 5 Christmas is almost here!

6 Wouldn't it be exciting if we could go back in time to  
 7 that first Christmas? But ... how would we get there?  
 8 Where would we start? What *road* should we take?

9 (*SIGN-BEARER #1 and the four Prophets — DANIEL,*  
 10 *MICAH, JEREMIAH, and ISAIAH — enter. SIGN-BEARER*  
 11 *#1 carries "Prophets" sign. Each PROPHET carries a scroll.*)

12 Perhaps this sign will show us the way. (*Goes over to join*  
 13 *SIGN-BEARER #1.*) Could you please show us how to  
 14 get to Christmas?

15 **SIGN-BEARER #1:** Of course ... But you'll have to go far  
 16 back into the Old Testament, for the coming of a Savior  
 17 is the promise of the Old Testament. The whole idea of  
 18 a Messiah or a Savior coming from God grew and  
 19 developed over hundreds of years among the Hebrew  
 20 people. At first it seemed that any Savior would be a  
 21 mighty warrior, a popular leader, a noble king. Many  
 22 hopes were built on a King David type of hero. And  
 23 these hopes for a Messiah were nourished and kept  
 24 alive by men called prophets. The Road to Christmas  
 25 surely traveled through them. (*Stands aside.*)

26 **DANIEL:** (*Steps forward.*) I am Daniel, a man of dreams and  
 27 visions. Let me tell you of one experience I had. (*Reads*  
 28 *Daniel 7:13-14 from scroll.*) "In my vision at night I  
 29 looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,  
 30 coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the  
 31 Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was  
 32 given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples,  
 33 nations and men of every language worshiped him. His  
 34 dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass  
 35 away, and his kingdom is one that will never be



1           **destroyed.”** (*Sits in front of SIGN-BEARER #1.*)

2   **MICAH:** (*Steps forward.*) I am Micah. Even though I lived eight  
3           hundred years before Christ was born, God spoke to me  
4           in this way. (*Reads Micah 5:1-4 from scroll.*) “**Marshal**  
5           **your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against**  
6           **us. They will strike Israel’s ruler on the cheek with a rod.**  
7           **‘But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small**  
8           **among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me**  
9           **one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from**  
10           **of old, from ancient times.’** Therefore Israel will be  
11           abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives  
12           birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the  
13           Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the  
14           strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the  
15           Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his  
16           greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.” (*Sits beside*  
17           **DANIEL.**)

18   **JEREMIAH:** (*Steps forward.*) I am Jeremiah. God inspired me  
19           to write about a new, personal relationship between  
20           himself and his people. (*Reads Jeremiah 31:31-34 from*  
21           *scroll.*) “**‘The time is coming,’** declares the Lord, **‘when I**  
22           **will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and**  
23           **with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant**  
24           **I made with their forefathers when I took them by the**  
25           **hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my**  
26           **covenant, though I was a husband to them,’** declares the  
27           Lord. **‘This is the covenant I will make with the house of**  
28           **Israel after that time,’** declares the Lord. **‘I will put my**  
29           **law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be**  
30           **their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a**  
31           **man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying,**  
32           **“Know the Lord,”** because they will all know me, from  
33           the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the Lord. **‘For**  
34           **I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their**  
35           **sins no more.”** (*Sits beside MICAH.*)

1     **ISAIAH:** *(Steps forward.)* I am Isaiah. Listen to my words.  
 2           *(Reads Isaiah 11:1-3 from scroll.)* “A shoot will come up  
 3     from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will  
 4     bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the  
 5     Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of  
 6     counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of  
 7     the fear of the Lord — and he will delight in the fear  
 8     of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his  
 9     eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears.” *(Sits*  
 10    *beside JEREMIAH.)*

11    **NARRATOR:** Their words are so mysterious. But these men  
 12    have started us on the way to Christmas, and we must  
 13    walk a long way to the next sign. I wonder where the  
 14    Road will lead now? We seem to be coming to a small  
 15    town. *(SIGN-BEARER #2 enters, carrying “Nazareth” sign,*  
 16    *and walks toward NARRATOR.)* Pardon me. Is this the  
 17    Road to Christmas?

18    **SIGN-BEARER #2:** Why, yes. The Road to Christmas has  
 19    two special landmarks here in Nazareth, and I wouldn’t  
 20    want you to miss them. First, I will lead you to the  
 21    home of Mary. *(MARY and JOSEPH enter and stand at*  
 22    *Center Stage. SIGN-BEARER #2 goes to Upstage Center.*  
 23    *READER enters.)*

24    **READER:** Once upon a time almost two thousand years ago,  
 25    in the little town of Nazareth in the land of Palestine,  
 26    there lived a very young woman named Mary who  
 27    belonged to the tribe of Judah. One day the angel of  
 28    the Lord was sent to Mary with glad news. “God is  
 29    pleased with you, Mary,” the angel said. “God is going  
 30    to send you a baby boy. His name will be Jesus, and  
 31    he will be God’s own Son.” Mary was so happy that she  
 32    had to tell someone the good news. Far up into the hill  
 33    country she ran to her cousin Elizabeth. “God is going  
 34    to send his own Son to be my baby boy,” Mary told  
 35    Elizabeth. And Mary sang a happy song to thank God

1 for his great blessing.

2 **SONG:** “The Magnificat”

3 **MARY:** (*Singing*) My soul doth magnify the Lord.

4 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

5 Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid:

6 for behold from henceforth all generations shall call

7 me blessed.

8 Because he that is mighty hath done great things to me:

9 and holy is his name.

10 And his mercy is from generation unto generations,

11 to them that fear him.

12 He hath shewed might in his arm: he hath scattered the

13 proud in the conceit of their heart.

14 He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath

15 exalted the humble.

16 He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich

17 he hath sent empty away.

18 He hath received Israel his servant, being mindful of

19 his mercy.

20 As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his seed

21 for ever.

22 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the

23 Holy Ghost.

24 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

25 world without end. Amen.

26 **MARY:** (*After she sings, she goes off to the side and sits down near*

27 *SIGN-BEARER #1.*)

28 **SIGN-BEARER #2:** And now we must stop at the home of

29 **Joseph.** (*Walks with NARRATOR to JOSEPH, who is*

30 *working with tools.*)

31 **READER:** Back in Nazareth, God sent the good news to

32 **Joseph, the carpenter, whose family was descended from**

33 **David through Solomon. “God is sending his own Son to**

34 **be Mary’s baby,” the angel of the Lord told Joseph one**

35 **night as he was sleeping. “Take Mary and care for her.**

1           The baby shall be named Jesus.” And so it was that  
 2           when Mary came back to Nazareth, Joseph took her for  
 3           his wife and loved her and cared for her. (*SIGN-BEARER*  
 4           #2 stands near *SIGN-BEARER* #1. *JOSEPH* walks over and  
 5           sits by *MARY* and *SIGN-BEARER* #2.)

6   **NARRATOR:** The Road leaves the little town of Nazareth  
 7           now, and here it divides. I wonder which direction we  
 8           should go now ... (*SIGN-BEARER* #3 enters carrying  
 9           “Bethlehem” sign.)

10   **SIGN-BEARER #3:** Now you must go to Bethlehem. It is an  
 11           order from the Roman governor. You *must* go to  
 12           Bethlehem. (*SIGN-BEARER* #3 goes to stand near *SIGN-*  
 13           *BEARER* #2.)

14   **READER:** In those days, Caesar Augustus was the Emperor.  
 15           One day he sent out a command that everyone in the  
 16           country should be taxed. All the people went to the town  
 17           where they had been born to have their names written in  
 18           the Emperor’s tax book. Mary and Joseph went, too,  
 19           from Nazareth to the little town of Bethlehem in Judea.

20   **NARRATOR:** This Road is *much* busier than any we have  
 21           been on so far! Look at all those people! Do you hear the  
 22           crowd? They’re singing a song about the Savior they are  
 23           expecting. Let’s join them in singing “O Come, O Come,  
 24           Emmanuel.”

25   **SONG:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*Audience, READER,*  
 26           *and NARRATOR sing. INNKEEPER, MARY, and JOSEPH*  
 27           *meet at Center Stage. INNKEEPER places manger at center,*  
 28           *baby is unseen.)*

29           O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 30           And ransom captive Israel,  
 31           That mourns in lonely exile here  
 32           Until the Son of God appear.  
 33           Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 34           Shall come to thee, O Israel!

35

1 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
 2 And order all things, far and nigh;  
 3 To us the path of knowledge show,  
 4 And cause us in her ways to go.  
 5 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 6 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7  
 8 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 9 All peoples in one heart and mind;  
 10 Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
 11 Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 12 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 13 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

14  
 15 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
 16 Our spirits by thine advent here;  
 17 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 18 And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 19 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 20 Shall come to thee, O Israel!  
 21 Amen.

22  
 23 **INNKEEPER:** I'm sorry we had no room for you at the inn.  
 24 Your donkey will be safe outside, and you can sleep here  
 25 in the stable for the night. (*INNKEEPER leaves.*)

26  
 27 **SUGGESTED SONG:** "Come On, Ring Those Bells" (*Or another*  
 28 *song may be substituted. KINDERGARTEN CHORUS sings*  
 29 *while ringing little bells.*)

30  
 31 **READER:** Little Bethlehem was full of people. There was no  
 32 room for Mary and Joseph in the inn, so they slept that  
 33 night in a stable. And there, in the quiet darkness, while  
 34 the animals were sleeping and golden stars shone in the  
 35 sky, God sent his Son to be Mary's baby boy. Mary

1 wrapped him in soft clothes and laid him in the manger.

2

3 **SONG: "Away in a Manger"**

4 **NURSERY CHORUS:** (*Singing*)

5 Away in a manger,  
6 No crib for his bed,  
7 The little Lord Jesus  
8 Lay down his sweet head.  
9 The stars in the sky  
10 Looked down where he lay  
11 The little Lord Jesus,  
12 Asleep on the hay.

13

14 The cattle are lowing,  
15 The poor Baby wakes,  
16 But little Lord Jesus,  
17 No crying he makes;  
18 I love thee, Lord Jesus,  
19 Look down from the sky  
20 And stay by my cradle  
21 Till morning is nigh.

22

23 **NARRATOR:** What would *you* have done if you had been in  
24 Bethlehem at that moment?

25 **POEM: "Afterthoughts"** by Mary Ann Smith (*Five second-*  
26 *graders enter and read or say this, one verse each.*)

27 **POEM-READER #1:** I would have been a shepherd boy  
28 Down from the hills to see  
29 This baby, whom the angels said  
30 Was born for you and me.

31 **POEM-READER #2:** I would have watched his mother smile  
32 And gently soothe her child.  
33 I wonder if she'd notice me  
34 If I were there awhile?

35 **POEM-READER #3:** I would have tiptoed softly to

- 1           The manger where he lay,  
2           And touched the baby's tiny hand  
3           All snuggled in the hay.
- 4   **POEM-READER #4:** I would have been the lowly cow  
5           That lingered near the manger,  
6           Whose lowing lulled the Child to sleep —  
7           This tiny, newborn stranger.
- 8   **POEM-READER #5:** I would have been at Joseph's side.  
9           He'd smile as if to say,  
10          "I'm glad you're here, for did you know  
11          God's Son was born today?"  
12          (*POEM READERS return to seats.*)
- 13   **NARRATOR:** (*Walking in place*) I always thought that the Road  
14          to Christmas would end here, but see? It winds through  
15          the valley up into the hills, toward the fields where David  
16          had once been a shepherd. As long as the Road goes on,  
17          we must follow it. The climb is getting so steep ... (*Stops*  
18          *walking.*) Let's stop for a minute to catch our breath ...  
19          How still and quiet little Bethlehem looks. This must have  
20          been how it looked to those shepherds so long ago. They  
21          knew the promise of the Old Testament. Around their fire  
22          by night, they sang the Psalms of David and told stories  
23          of their Hebrew past. They, too, were looking for a  
24          Savior.
- 25   **READER:** In the fields outside little Bethlehem, shepherds  
26          were keeping watch over their sheep. As the shepherds  
27          looked up, they saw a great light shining and covered  
28          their faces in fright. Then they heard a voice saying, "Do  
29          not be afraid, for I bring you good news for all people  
30          everywhere. For to you is born this night in the town of  
31          Bethlehem, a Savior. You will know this Child, for he will  
32          be wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.  
33          And suddenly there was a great chorus of angels, singing  
34          and praising God."
- 35   **NARRATOR:** You can almost hear the echoes of those angel

1           choirs and shepherd voices in these hills. Let's listen to  
2           the Bethlehem Chorus as the children (*Of grades 1, 3, and*  
3           4) sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem." We will hum softly  
4           as they sing the last verse.

5       **SONG:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Last verse*)

6       **BETHLEHEM CHORUS:** (*Singing*)

7           O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
8           Descend to us, we pray;  
9           Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
10          Be born in us today.  
11          We hear the Christmas angels  
12          The great glad tidings tell;  
13          O come to us, abide with us,  
14          Our Lord Emmanuel!

15

16       **NARRATOR:** But Christmas doesn't end in a shepherd's field!  
17          What is the next sign we should look for?

18       **READER:** Look back toward Bethlehem. Remember what the  
19          shepherds said to each other? "Let us go to Bethlehem  
20          and find the Child that the Lord has told us of." Step,  
21          step, step, they started down the road. Then faster and  
22          faster they walked, until they came at last to the town.  
23          There they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus, and  
24          they knelt down and worshiped him. The news of this  
25          Child was too wonderful to keep. The shepherds told  
26          everyone about this Savior-come. Mary had listened to  
27          what the shepherds said about the angel's words and the  
28          singing, and she knew in her heart they were true. Mary  
29          and Joseph loved the Child that God had sent them. They  
30          named him Jesus, just as the angel had told them to. And  
31          *that* was the first Christmas.

32       **NARRATOR:** Let's join the shepherds in rejoicing as we all  
33          sing, "Good Christian Men, Rejoice."

34       **SONG:** "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (*During the singing,*  
35          *MARY and JOSEPH, with the manger, leave to sit near SIGN-*



1        *BEARER #2 again.)*  
 2        Good Christian men, rejoice,  
 3        With heart and soul and voice;  
 4        Give ye heed to what we say:  
 5        Jesus Christ is born today.  
 6        Ox and ass before him bow,  
 7        And he is in the manger now.  
 8        Christ is born today,  
 9        Christ is born today!

10  
 11        Good Christian men, rejoice,  
 12        With heart and soul and voice;  
 13        Now ye hear of endless bliss;  
 14        Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 15        He hath oped the heavenly door,  
 16        And man is blessed evermore.  
 17        Christ was born for this,  
 18        Christ was born for this!

19  
 20        Good Christian men, rejoice,  
 21        With heart and soul and voice;  
 22        Now ye need not fear the grave;  
 23        Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 24        Calls you one and calls you all,  
 25        To gain his everlasting hall.  
 26        Christ was born to save,  
 27        Christ was born to save!

28  
 29        **CHILD:** (*Enters and stands at Center Stage.*) Is *this* the end of  
 30        the Christmas Road?

31        **READER:** Oh, no! It's really the beginning of a *new*  
 32        Christmas Road. The birth of the baby in Bethlehem  
 33        paved the way for the birth of Christian living in our  
 34        hearts — in the lives of boys and girls, men and women.  
 35        Do you remember the words of the last verse of "O



*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:*

*ROAD TO CHRISTMAS*

*by Mary Ann Smith.*

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,  
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

[customerservice@christianpub.com](mailto:customerservice@christianpub.com)