



Sweet Christmas Advent- Christmas Program

[Please provide: musical accompaniment, hymnals, copies of “I Love to Tell the Story” found at the end of this program for participants, copies of this program for the narrator, reader, and accompanist, samples of candy for use throughout the program, basket to place candy samples in to give away as a door prize at the end of the program. Option: purchase snack size candies and place in small bags to give as gifts to every attendee. If giving away candy samples, attach the Bible verse reference to each kind of candy as a reminder of how each relates to the Christmas story. Reproducible Bible verse reference tags are found at the end of the program.]

Note: If Rocky Road® candy bars are unavailable in your area, check online.

Narrator: Christmas can be a very sweet time of year. Aside from our kitchens being full of the wonderful smells of baking and all the holiday candy that comes along with it, the “sweetness” of Christmas is also found in the story of our Lord’s birth! Let’s sing about it.

All Sing: “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love,
I love to tell the story, Because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings, As nothing else would do,
Refrain: I love to tell the story; ‘Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, ‘Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard
The message of salvation From God’s own holy Word.
Refrain: I love to tell the story, ‘Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

“I Love to Tell the Story,” Words by William G. Fischer and Music by Arabella K. Hankey, 1866. Public Domain.

Narrator: Christmas is part of the whole story of Jesus. Not only does the name of Jesus sound sweet to our ears (LSB 524), so does the story of His birth! He came to live the perfect life under God’s Law for us. He was the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. He rose again to give us eternal life! His birth was preceded by a journey on a ...

Narrator:

Rocky Road® (Hold up wrapped candy.)

There may not have been an actual “rocky road” between Nazareth and Bethlehem, but Mary was expecting and very close to her time of delivery. Making that journey must have been very difficult for her. Sometimes today, women are advised not to take long trips in a car or on a plane if they are close to giving birth. Imagine Mary as she took the trek to Bethlehem on foot or by donkey!

Reader: *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child (Luke 2:4-5).*

All Sing: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361, TLH 647, LW 59)

Narrator:

Sugar Babies® (Hold up wrapped candy.)

This sweet candy reminds us of baby Jesus in the manger. God sent His only Son down from heaven in the form of a sweet little baby. This little child would grow up to change history and our world and save us from our sin.

Reader: *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).*

All Sing: “Away In A Manger” (LSB 364, LW 64)

Narrator:

Candy Cane (Hold up wrapped candy.)

The candy cane reminds us of the staff the shepherds used as they took care of their sheep while the baby Jesus was being born. God chose to reveal the birth of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, (John 10:11) to these ordinary shepherds as they were going about their business, not yet knowing all that Jesus, the Good Shepherd would do for them!

Reader: *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear (Luke 2:8-9).*

Narrator:

Almond Joy® (Hold up wrapped candy.)

While the shepherds were watching their sheep they were told that the Christ was born! “Christ” is the Greek word for the Hebrew word, “Messiah.” Imagine the shepherds’ joy over getting to meet their Savior after so many years of waiting! Waiting nine months for a baby to be born doesn’t even compare to waiting thousands of years! It certainly was “*good news of great joy*” (Luke 2:10) for everyone!

Reader: *And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12).*

All Sing: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (TLH 368, LW 55)

Narrator:

Dove® (Hold up wrapped candy.)

The dove has been used as a symbol of peace throughout history. Christ was born to bring us peace with God and with one another as we trust in Him.

Reader: *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).*

Narrator: Jesus said:

Reader: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”* (John 14:27).

Narrator: The prophet Isaiah said of Jesus 700 years before His birth:

Reader: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; . . . and his name shall be called . . . Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6).

Narrator: Luke 2:13-14 says:

Reader: *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

All Sing: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” (LSB 367, TLH 136, LW 50)

Narrator:

Milky Way[®] (Hold up wrapped candy.)

God Himself told the story of Jesus, the promised Savior, to Abraham some two thousand years before Jesus was born. Genesis 15:5 says [the LORD] *brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”* Jesus would be one of Abraham’s descendants! The sweet story of Jesus continued as *“wise men from the east”* (Matthew 2:1) followed a special star God placed in the Milky Way which led them to the Savior.

Reader: *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him”* (Matthew 2:1-2).

Narrator:

Starburst[®] (Hold up wrapped candy.)

The wise men, astrologers of Christ’s day, sought the Lord. Why? The Holy Spirit guided them by a star, giving them faith to look for Jesus. When the wise men saw the star, they *rejoiced* (Matthew 2:10). The Christmas star reminds us that Jesus is *the light of the world* (John 8:12). Like the wise men, we, too, rejoice in the birth of the newborn King!

Reader: *After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy* (Matthew 2:9-10).

All Sing: “As with Gladness Men of Old” (LSB 397, TLH 127, LW 75)

Narrator:

Hershey’s Treasures[®] (Hold up wrapped candy.)

The Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to the wise men and created faith so that they would search for Him, follow Him, and worship Him! The wise men worshiped Jesus by giving Him treasures. For centuries, this action of gift-giving has continued as a tradition connected with the Christmas celebration. However, giving gifts is not only for Christmas. It’s also about daily giving Jesus our time, talents, and other things in service to Him and to others. We want everyone to know that

Jesus is the greatest gift and that He is their Lord and Savior. Then they, too, can bask in the sweetness of His forgiveness of sins!

Reader: *And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).*

Narrator:

Riesen[®] (pronounced “reason”) (Hold up wrapped candy.)

This candy spelled R-I-E-S-E-N has two R-E-A-S-O-N-S to be mentioned. First, from Jesus’ perspective WE are the reason for the season! Jesus came to earth because of our sins. He lived, died, and rose again so that we could live with Him forever! Second, from *our* faith perspective, Jesus is the reason for the season! Our lives have new meaning and purpose as we trust in His Person and in His work for our salvation. As we worship Him, serve Him, and tell others about Him, Jesus is our “reason” for this and every sweet season!

Reader: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

All sing: “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (vv. 1–4) (LSB 524, TLH 364, LW 279)

Sweet Christmas

Written by Barbara Schaer, Gordon, Nebraska

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I Love to Tell the Story

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Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love,
I love to tell the story, Because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings, As nothing else would do,
Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard
The message of salvation From God's own holy Word.
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To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

"I Love to Tell the Story," Words by William G. Fischer and Music by Arabella K. Hankey, 1866. Public Domain.

Bible Verse Tags for Candy Samples

Rocky Road®

Luke 2:4–5

Sugar Babies®

Luke 2:7

Candy Cane

Luke 2:8–9

Almond Joy®

Luke 2:10–12

Dove®

Isaiah 9:6

Milky Way®

Matthew 2:1–2

Starburst®

Matthew 2:9–10

Hershey's Treasures®

Matthew 2:11

Reisen®

John 3:16