

# “Christmas: We’re On the Air”

by Cathy Skogen-Soldner

Performance time: ~40 minutes

**Speaking parts:** Child #1, Child #2, Announcer #1, Announcer #2, 📻 Traffic Reporter, 🕒 Time Reporter, 🌤️ Weather Reporter, 🏀 Sports Reporter, 🚗 Barn Reporter #1, 🧑🏫 Barn Reporter #2, “No Room” voice (one person for all 3 voices), 📺 Field Reporter #1, 📺 Field Reporter #2

**Non-speaking parts:** APPLAUSE sign holder, GOOD NEWS letter holders, sound effects, Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, star & wisemen

**Sound Effects:** jingle bells, bike horn, hard-soled shoes, pencil & piece of paper, triangle, whistle, empty shoe box, hard-cover book & plastic bags

**Sounds:** footsteps – walk hard-soled shoes on table top  
tic-toc of clock – pencil taps paper during time report  
door knock – fist pounds on shoe box during barn report  
door slams shut – close hard-covered book quickly  
static – wrinkle plastic bags

\*THOMAS/Mr. W will manage all sound effects.

**Stage/Setting:** Child 1 and 2 will be in front of piano by APPLAUSE sign holder. Announcer #1 and 2 will be behind table in Choir Loft. Other people with lines will approach a platform on each corner of the Altar railings. Children (Chorus) will be on risers on top of Altar area. Youth Praise Team will be on band platform.

.....  
Kids enter in, take their places

Pr Kyle Welcome, Prayer

 **Song:** “Gather ‘Round” – instrumental refrain, TSOH band only

(as music begins, Child #1 & Child #2 enter stage right followed by “APPLAUSE” sign holder; stop & stand next to sound effects table)

**Child #1:** (to audience) We’d like to start by saying thank you for coming. Most of you know that this show will be a live radio broadcast.

**Child #2:** (to audience) There are a couple of things we ask of our audience during a live broadcast.

**Child #1:** (to audience) Please turn off anything that you brought with you that rings (pause), buzzes (pause), or sings.

**Child #2:** (to Child #1) Wait a minute. I think things that sing are O.K. After all (pause), this is a Christmas musical!

**Child #1:** (to Child #2) Oh (pause), I guess you’re right. Let me start over. (to audience) Please turn off anything that you brought with you that rings or buzzes. (Child #2 nods enthusiastically)

**Child #2:** (to audience) We should be ready to start the broadcast in a few minutes. You will know the broadcast is going to begin when you hear us say, ‘5-4-3-2-1, We’re on the air.’ At that point, we ask you to be as quiet as you can be.

**Child #1:** (to audience) Oh, there’s one more thing. (points to “APPLAUSE” sign holder) When ever you see this sign being held up high like this (sign holder holds “APPLAUSE” sign overhead), you are invited to clap. (Child #2 claps) Then when the sign is lowered like this (sign holder lowers “APPLAUSE” sign), you stop clapping. (Child #2 does a cut-off motion like a director uses to get the band to quit playing)

**Child #2:** (to audience) Let’s try it once. Remember: (pause) when the sign is up, you clap; when the sign is down, you stop.

**Child #1:** (to audience) Everyone ready?

(Child #1 points to sign holder, who holds “APPLAUSE” sign overhead as Child #2 claps along with audience; Child #1 points to sign holder again, who then lowers “APPLAUSE” sign as Child #2 does a cut-off motion to stop audience clapping. Child #1 quickly points to sign holder, who holds “APPLAUSE” sign overhead as Child #2 claps along with audience; then quickly points to sign holder again, who then lowers “APPLAUSE” sign as Child #2 does a quick cut-off motion to stop audience clapping.)

Child #1: (to audience) You could probably use a little more practice, but we are out of time. (taps on watch)

Child #2: (to audience) Once again, thank you so much for coming. We will begin our live broadcast in a few short minutes.

(Child #1 exits stage right followed by "APPLAUSE" sign holder who is followed by Child #2.

"APPLAUSE" sign holder holds sign overhead and Child #2 starts to clap. Child #1 turns around and does a cut-off motion to stop Child #2 from clapping. "APPLAUSE" sign holder lowers sign and all exit to join choir.)

 **Song:** "Gather 'Round" (motions) – SS children

( Traffic Reporter take their place)

**Sound: ring jingle bells**

**Announcer #1:** (with energy) Hey there! We're coming to you live from Studio 7 here in downtown Bethlehem. My name is **Kami**.

**Announcer #2:** (with energy) And I'm **Charles**. Boy, what a day! I had kind of a slow drive in to work today. How was the traffic for you?

**Announcer #1:** Slower than usual, but I made it to work on time. As most of you know, Bethlehem is bulging at the seams. The census has brought a lot of extra people into town.

**Announcer #2:** That means that traffic will be tight all day. If you have to be somewhere today, be sure to give yourself plenty of time to get there. Let's check in with our traffic reporter to get the latest on the traffic around town.

**Sound: bike horn honks 2 times**

 Traffic Reporter: Thanks, you guys. Traffic has really picked up in the last hour. We have two trouble spots for you to be aware of. It is slow and go on both Market Street and Broadway Ave. And traffic is stopped on the Bethlehem Bypass. There was a camel and donkey accident that stopped traffic in both directions.

**Sound: donkey bray**

 Traffic Reporter: That accident happened about ten minutes ago. You might want to consider using a different route until that accident is cleared. That's all the traffic for now. I'll send it back to you in the studio.

**Sound: bike horn honks 2 times**

( Traffic Reporter exits to join choir;

 Time Reporter,  Weather Reporter & APPLAUSE sign holder take their places)

**Announcer #2:** Thanks for that traffic report. I can't imagine where all these people are going to be staying tonight.

**Announcer #1:** I heard that most of the rooms in Bethlehem are already booked!

**Announcer #2:** Really? If you are listening out there, now's the time to get a room. They're going fast!

**Announcer #1:** Time for a quick check of the time and weather. What time do we have?

 Time Reporter: It's almost time for lunch.

**Announcer #2:** (pauses) Could you be just a little bit more specific?

 Time Reporter: O.K. (pause) It's 11:45 a.m.

( Time Reporter exits to join choir)

**Announcer #1:** Thank you for that time report. And now here's our weather reporter with the weather forecast for today.

**Sound: strike triangle two times**

 Weather Reporter: It looks like we have a beautiful day ahead of us.

*(sign holder holds "APPLAUSE" sign overhead, waits for audience to clap & then lowers sign)*

 Weather Reporter: Not a cloud in the sky! If this holds up, it should be a great night for looking at the stars.  
Back to you in the studio.

**Sound: strike triangle two times**

*( Weather Reporter exits to join choir;*

* Sports Reporter &  Barn Reporters take their places)*

**Announcer #1:** Thanks for that weather report.

**Announcer #2:** *(with excitement)* Breaking news! We just got word that a baby has been born in a barn in Bethlehem.

**Announcer #1:** A baby! What can you tell us about this baby?

**Announcer #2:** Nothing yet, but we have a crew on their way to the barn right now. We'll keep you updated as we get more information.

**Announcer #1:** While we're waiting, let's take time for Short Sports . . . a brief report on what's happening in sports. Here's your sports reporter.

**Sound: blow whistle nice and long**

 Sports Reporter: Welcome to Short Sports.

**Sound: blow whistle nice and long**

 Sports Reporter: The Bulldogs beat the Nuggets by a score of four to two.  
The game was really close until the captain lost his shoe.  
That's all for now. Thanks for listening to Short Sports.

**Sound: blow whistle nice and long**

*( Sports Reporter exits to join choir)*

**Announcer #1:** Thanks for that sports report. And now for an update on the baby that was born in a barn in Bethlehem.

**Announcer #2:** Our news crew is live on the scene. Are you there?

 Barn Reporter #1: We sure are.

**Announcer #2:** Fill us in. Who are these people and why was their baby born in a barn?

 Barn Reporter #1: The couple's names are Mary and Joseph. They travelled here all the way from Nazareth.

 Barn Reporter #2: It was a very long trip for Joseph. But it was a very, very long trip for Mary because she was going to have a baby.

 Barn Reporter #1: When they tried to get a room at an inn, this is what they heard:

**Mr Walkenhorst:** **Sound: fist pounds on shoe box 5 times**

*Low Voice says, "No room . . . sorry."*

**Close hard-covered book quickly**

**Fist pounds on shoe box 5 times**

*High Voice says, "Sorry . . . no room."*

**Close hard-covered book quickly**

**Fist pounds on shoe box 5 times**

*Regular Voice says, "No room . . . so sorry."*

**Close hard-covered book quickly**

 Barn Reporter #1: So they took the only spot they could find, *(pause)* a barn in Bethlehem.

**Sound: chicken, cow & sheep noises**

 Barn Reporter #2: Shortly after they got here, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

 Barn Reporter #1: Mary gave birth to her son right here in the barn.

**Sound: chicken, cow & sheep noises**

 Barn Reporter #2: She named her baby, Jesus. Then she wrapped the baby in cloth and laid him in the manger.

 **Song:** "Away in a Manger / Gentle Light" *(triangle, xylophone, sign language or lights)* – SS "Away..."  
TSOH "Gentle"

**Sound: chicken, cow & sheep noises**

 Barn Reporter #1: We have learned that this is no ordinary baby. This baby is the savior that God promised to send us. That means that the birth of this child brings light and hope to the whole world.

 Barn Reporter #2: I think this is just the beginning of the special reports we'll be bringing to you about the child of God that was born here today.

 Barn Reporter #1: I think you're right. *(pause)* That's all the news from us for now... but it seems like there's some more commotion coming from the barn animals. Let's tune in...

**Sound: chicken, cow & sheep noises**

*(Barn Reporters exit to join choir)*

 **Song: In a Stable** – SS Children

*(Field Reporter #1, Field Reporter #2, Traffic Reporter & take their places)*

**Sound: ring jingle bells**

**Announcer #1:** Wow! Thank you for that great song. I didn't know the animals could sing like *that!*  
*(sign holder holds "APPLAUSE" sign overhead, waits for audience to clap & then lowers sign; sign holder exits to join choir)*

**Announcer #2:** Just in . . . *(with excitement)* We're getting breaking news that bright lights have been reported over a field outside of Bethlehem. Let's send it out to our reporters in the field.

**Sound: STATIC**

**Field Reporter #1:** We're coming to you live on the edge of the town of Bethlehem. About an hour ago, we saw bright lights over a field just north of town.

**Field Reporter #2:** *(with excitement)* It was bright . . . really, really, really, really bright!

**Field Reporter #1:** The light seems to have left static electricity in the air, so we apologize for the technical difficulty and the static you hear during our report.

**Sound: STATIC**

**Field Reporter #1:** We drove toward the light and when we got closer, the light was gone. It was almost as if the light went up into the sky.

**Field Reporter #2:** *(with excitement)* It was bright . . . really, really, really, really bright!

**Sound: STATIC**

**Field Reporter #1:** We checked with some eyewitnesses who were on the scene. They were shepherds who were out in that field taking care of their flock of sheep. This is what the eyewitnesses told us:

**Field Reporter #2:** *(with excitement)* It was bright . . . really, really, really, really bright!

**Sound: STATIC**

**Field Reporter #1:** The shepherds said that an angel had come to visit them and told them not to be afraid. Then the angel delivered the good news that a Savior had been born in Bethlehem. The next thing I knew, the shepherds were on their way into town hoping to find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. That's the news about the bright lights over the field.

**Field Reporter #2:** *(with excitement)* It was bright . . . really, really, really, really bright!

**Sound: STATIC**

**Field Reporter #1:** We're sending it back to you at the studio.

*(Field Reporters exit to join choir)*

**Announcer #2:** Thanks for that report from the field. Now let's get another update on the traffic.

**Sound: bike horn honks 2 times**

 Traffic Reporter: Thank you. Traffic has really slowed down all over town. The only people we saw way off in the distance, were some wisemen from the east. They said that they had been following a star that was leading them to the Savior. I've been thinking *(pause)*, maybe we should forget about the traffic for the rest of the night and keep an eye on that star. Back to you at the studio.

**Sound: bike horn honks 2 times**

*(Traffic Reporter exits to join choir)*

 **Song: "Follow, Follow"** – SS children

**Sound: ring jingle bells**

**Announcer #2:** Welcome back to Studio 7 here in downtown Bethlehem. That last song, "Follow, Follow", is dedicated to everyone out there who travelled a long way to get to Bethlehem today. And now, it's time for a brief re-cap of today's news.

*(Announcers stand as they are retelling the Bible story)*

**Announcer #1:** Emperor Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire, so everyone went to register in their hometown.

**Announcer #2:** Joseph travelled all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Mary. She was promised in marriage to him and she was going to have a baby.

**Announcer #1:** And while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger.

**Announcer #2:** There was no room for them to stay in the inn.

**Announcer #1:** In that part of the country, there were some shepherds who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks.

**Announcer #2:** An angel of the Lord appeared to them.

**Announcer #1:** The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news that will bring great joy to all people. Your Savior, Christ the Lord was born today. You will find the savior wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger." And then the angels started to sing. And maybe... Mary sang too!



**Song: "Mary Sang"** – SS children

**Announcer #2:** After the angels sang, the shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see the Savior."

**Announcer #1:** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.

**Announcer #2:** The shepherds left singing and praising God for everything that they had seen and heard.

**Announcer #1:** And now - we sing a song to join them in their praise!



**Song: Come Play a Song / Joy to the World** (*motions*) – SS children "Come Play"

TSOH "Joy to the World"

2-part combined ALL

**Announcer #2:** Now, sometime later, the wisemen from the East arrived.

**Announcer #1:** They had followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was.

**Announcer #2:** When they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt and worshiped the Christ child.

**Announcer #1:** Then the wisemen gave Jesus their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Announcer #2:** And that's a re-cap of today's news.



**Song: Oh, Come / O O O Come** (*claps*) – ALL (TSOH lead verses if needed)

**Sound: ring jingle bells**

**Announcer #1:** Thanks for that re-cap of today's news.

**Announcer #2:** It's been great to report on some good news for a change.

**Announcer #1:** God's gift of a savior is definitely good news for everyone.

**Announcer #2:** So we're asking you to help us get God's good news out to the world. Do what you can!

**Sound: ring jingle bells**

**Announcer #2:** To all of our listeners out there, thanks for tuning in today.

**Announcer #1:** And now from allllll of us in Studio 7 here in downtown Bethlehem, we say...

EVERYONE: (*together*) **Merry Christmas!**

**Sound: ring jingle bells**



**Song: Gather 'Round – reprise** (*motions, letters, pom-poms & snaps*) – SS Children

Pastor Kyle "thank you", closes, etc.

**CHILDREN go back to classrooms to be picked up.**