



# **Bells Tell the Story**

**A Jesus Cares Ministries Christmas Service**

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# Bells Tell the Story

*The church bells ring.*

**Students sing:** “Jesus Loves Me,” stanza 1

*Pastor and students speak.*

**Students and congregation sing:** “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel,” hymn 23, stanzas 1 and 4

## Part 1: The Warning Bell

*Pastor and students speak. Pastor concludes by saying,*

**Pastor:** Isaiah also offered hope by telling God’s people of the Savior to come. Isaiah said in chapter 9 verse 6,

**All students and congregation:** “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

*Pastor and students speak.*

## Part 2: Wedding Bells

*Pastor and students speak.*

**Students sing:** “Ring the Bells”

## Part 3: A Cowbell

*Pastor and students speak.*

**Pastor and congregation:** Hear ye! Hear ye!  
Shepherds spread the happy news.

*A tolling church bell or hand bell is rung slowly.*

**Pastor and congregation:** A tolling bell leads to the cross, for Jesus died, then rose,

*Students ring lamb bells.*

**Pastor and congregation:** To make us all his precious lambs! This is our story’s close.

*All the bells are sounded.*

**Pastor and congregation:** But now, before we say amen, sound your happy bells again.

*All the bells are sounded.*

**All students:** We’ll shout our praise to God above, for sharing with the world his love. A Savior is born!

**Pastor:** The story has been shared again. But it can’t stay within these walls.

**All students:** Take the message with you!

**Pastor:** Spread it throughout our community. Spread it throughout our world! Sound the Christmas bells each day!

*All the bells are sounded.*

**Students and congregation sing:** “Joy to the World,” hymn 62

**Congregation:** Sheep, sound your bells! Let them ring loud and clear! Christ, our Good Shepherd, loves everyone here!

*Offering*

*Prayers*

### Part 9: Sound the Bells Again!

**Pastor:** What have we learned? Let's sound the bells again!

*Student sounds a warning bell.*

**Pastor and congregation:** The prophets blaring warning bells proclaimed, "Repent! Believe!"

*Church bells or organ chimes are rung.*

**Pastor and congregation:** Wedding bells happily a new family receive.

*Students ring cowbells.*

**Pastor and congregation:** The humble Babe of Bethlehem was born in stable small,

*Student rings a dinner bell.*

**Pastor and congregation:** Then shepherds quickly ran to greet the Savior born for all.

*Students ring hand bells or hand chimes.*

**Pastor and congregation:** As angels' songs rang through the night, so, too, these bells we choose.

*Student rings school bell.*

**Congregation sings:** "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child," hymn 56, stanzas 1-3

**Pastor and congregation:** "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke chapter 2, verses 1 through 7.

**Students sing:** "Away in a Manger"

### Part 4: A Dinner Bell

*Pastor and students speak. Pastor concludes by saying,*

**Pastor:** The Savior was born. The humble shepherds of Bethlehem were invited to see him.

*Student rings a dinner bell.*

**Pastor and congregation:** "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

*Pastor and students speak.*

### Part 5: Angel Bells

**Student:** What is that sound I hear?

**Pastor:** That's probably what the shepherds asked too. The angel bells stand for the singing of the angels to the shepherds.

**Pastor and congregation:** "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" Luke chapter 2, verses 13 and 14.

*Pastor and student speak.*

**Students and congregation sing:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," hymn 61, stanza 1

### Part 6: A Town Crier

*Pastor and students speak. Pastor concludes by saying,*

**Pastor:** The shepherds first spread the good news of Jesus' birth. They were so excited that they told everyone they met about what happened that wondrous night.

**Pastor and congregation:** "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and

the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." Luke chapter 2, verses 15 through 19.

*Pastor and students speak.*

**Students and congregation sing:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain," hymn 57

### Part 7: A Tolling Bell

*Pastor and students speak. Student concludes by saying,*

**Student:** This means that all believers will have everlasting life in heaven.

**Pastor and congregation:** "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." First John chapter 5, verses 11 and 13.

**Students and congregation sing:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem," hymn 65, stanzas 1 and 4

### Part 8: The Lamb's Bells

*Pastor and students speak. Student concludes by saying,*

**Student:** Sheep need a shepherd to give them their food . . . and all that is good. Sheep need a shepherd to keep them from strife . . . and to lay down his life. Sheep need a shepherd to call them by name . . . and to love them the same.