

19th December 2021 6pm Parish Carol Service

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Note: the Bible translations used by the readers may differ from the NIV(UK) given here.

1st Carol: Once in Royal David's City

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| <p>1. Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her Baby
 In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little Child.</p> <p>2. He came down to earth from Heaven,
 who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
 Lived on earth our Saviour holy.</p> <p>3. And, through all His wondrous childhood,
 He would honour and obey,
 Love and watch the lowly maiden,
 In whose gentle arms He lay:
 Christian children all must be
 Mild, obedient, good as He.</p> | <p>4. For He is our childhood's pattern;
 Day by day, like us He grew;
 He was little, weak and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feeleth for our sadness,
 And He shareth in our gladness.</p> <p>5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love,
 For that Child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
 And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.</p> <p>6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
 With the oxen standing by,
 We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
 Set at God's right hand on high;
 Where like stars His children crowned
 All in white shall wait around.</p> |
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2nd reading: Isaiah 9:2,6,7

To us a Child is born

- ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
- ⁶ 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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

2nd Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>2. O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!
For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.</p> | <p>3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!</p> |
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3rd Reading: Isaiah 11:1-3a,4a,6-9

A Branch from David's Line – the promise of hope

- ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him –
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD –
- ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
- ⁴ with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
- ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

3rd Carol: Longing for Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain

4th Reading: Luke 1:26-35,38

The angel visits Mary and the birth of Jesus foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you said." Then the angel left her.

4th Carol: Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin and her child!
Holy infant, so gentle and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!
2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight!
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!
3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams your holy face
With the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth!
Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

5th Reading: Luke 2:1,3-7

The birth of Jesus

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

5th Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the king of angels:
- Chorus:*
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.
2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created:
3. See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly
fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful
footsteps
4. Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
bring our hearts' oblations
5. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:

6th Reading: Luke 2:8-16

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they

were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he

is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

¹⁵ 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.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

6th Carol: While Shepherds Watched

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| <p>1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.</p> <p>2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.</p> <p>3. 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:</p> | <p>4. 'The heav'nly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.'</p> <p>5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:</p> <p>6. 'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace,
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease.'</p> |
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7th Reading: John 1:1-14

The Word became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Short Talk

7th Carol: The Servant King

1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your Glory veiled,
Not to be served but to serve,
And give Your life that we might live.

Chorus:

This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.

2. There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but Yours', He said.

Chorus

4. Come see His hand and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

Chorus

5. So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him,
Each other's needs to prefer,
For Christ we're serving.

Chorus

Time of Prayer

8th Carol: Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing

1. Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Chorus:

Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Chorus

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Chorus

Blessing

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