

THE CHRIST-CHILD BORN FOR US!



**An Evening of Carols
and
Scripture Readings
2023**

For a Child will be born for us. A Son will be given to us. The government will be on His shoulder, and His name will be called: “Wonderful Counsellor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” “Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

Prelude:

Welcome:

Psalm 96

M: Sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth!

C: Sing to the LORD! Bless His name! Proclaim His salvation from day to day!

M: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous deeds among all the peoples!

C: For the LORD is great and very worthy of praise. He should be feared above all gods.

M: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD has made the heavens.

C: Splendour and majesty are before Him. Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

M: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name! Present an offering, and come into His courts!

M: Worship the LORD in holy splendour! Tremble before Him, all the earth!

C: Say among the nations: "The LORD reigns. The world also is firmly established. It will not be moved. He will judge the peoples justly!"

M: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! Let the sea and all that fills it roar!

C: Let the fields and everything in them be jubilant! Then all the trees of the forest will shout with joy before the LORD. For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with His truth.

M&C: Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for evermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 3:8-15

At the time of the day when there was a breeze, the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden, and they hid from the presence of the LORD God among the trees in the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man and asked him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ The man said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked. So I hid.”

¹¹ He said, “Who has told you that you are naked? Have you eaten fruit from the tree from which I have commanded you not to eat?”

¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What is this that you have done?”

The woman said, “The snake deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ Then the LORD God told the snake: “Because you have done this, you are cursed, more than every domestic animal and every wild animal. You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I shall make you and the woman hostile to each other, and I shall make your descendants and her Descendant hostile to each other. He will crush your head, and you will crush His heel.”

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.

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

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above:
Glory to God
in the highest:

4

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;



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 you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.



*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*



2

Christ, by highest heaven 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 Immanuel:

3

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who were walking in darkness will see a bright Light. A Light will shine on those who were living in a land of deep darkness. ³ You will enlarge the nation for them. You will make their joy great. They will rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest or like those who rejoice when they divide plunder. ⁴ For You will shatter the yoke that is a burden on them, the cane that is on their shoulders and the rod of those who forced them to work, as You did on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every warrior's boot that has been tramping in the noise of battle and every garment rolled in blood will be burnt as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a Child will be born for us. A Son will be given to us. The government will be on His shoulder, and His name will be called: "Wonderful Counsellor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace." ⁷ There will be no end to the growth of His

dominion and peace. He will be on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to make it firm and to support it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

JOY TO THE WORLD

1

Joy to the world! the Lord is
come;
let earth receive its King;
let every heart prepare Him
room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven
and nature sing.

2

Joy to the earth! the Saviour
reigns;
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding
joy.

3

No more let sins and
sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the
ground;
He comes to make His
blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is
found.

4

He rules the world with
truth and grace,
and makes the nations
prove
the glories of His
righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of
His love.



SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 5:2-5

However, although you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet out of you One who will be the Ruler over Israel will come forth for Me. His origins are from of old, from the days of eternity. ³ Therefore, He will give them up until the time when a woman in labour has a Child. Then the rest of His brothers will return to the people of Israel. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd His flock with the strength of the LORD, with the majesty of the name of the LORD, His God. They will live securely, for then His greatness will reach as far as the ends of the earth. ⁵ He will be a man of peace.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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.

2

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the
angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the
king,
and peace to men on earth.



3

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

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 Immanuel!

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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.

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.



4
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.

5
Not in that poor, lowly
stable
With the oxen standing by,
Shall we see Him; but in
heaven,
Set at God's right hand on
high.
Then like stars His children,
crowned
All in white, His praise will
sound!

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called "Nazareth," ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man by the name of Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel entered her home, he said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ She was greatly troubled at what he said and was wondering what kind of greeting this was. ³⁰ The angel told her: "Stop being afraid, Mary! For you have found favour with God. ³¹ You see: you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a Son and you shall call His name 'Jesus.' ³² He will be great and will be called 'the Son of the Most High.' Moreover, the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ He will reign over the family of Jacob for ever, and there will be no end of His kingdom."

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "How will this be, since I am not living with a husband?"

³⁵ The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come over you, and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, also the Holy One who is conceived will be called 'the Son of God.'"

³⁶ In addition, look! Your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her, whom

people used to call barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸ Mary answered, “Look! I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said!”

PRAISE GOD THE LORD, YE SONS OF MEN

1
Praise God the Lord, ye sons
of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heaven
again
And gives us His own Son.

2
He leaves His heavenly
Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and
lone,
Lies in a humble stall.

3
His power to use He now
refrains,
No crown adorns His brow;
He who as King for ever
reigns
Comes as a Servant now.

4
He is the branch of David’s
line,
King David’s Lord and Son,
Through whom and by
whose grace divine
The kingdom must be won.

5
A wondrous change which
He doth make:
He takes our flesh and
blood,
And He conceals for sinners’
sake
His majesty as God.

6
He serves that I a lord may
be –
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus’ love do more
for me
To help me in my need?



He opens us again the door
 Of Paradise today;
 The angel guards the gate no more:
 To God our thanks we pay.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-23

This is how Jesus Christ was born. His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph. However, before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, her husband, was an honourable man and, because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her secretly. ²⁰ After Joseph had thought about it, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take your wife Mary home with you! For what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you shall name Him ‘Jesus’! For He will save His people from their sins.”

²² All this happened to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “Look! The virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and they will name Him ‘Immanuel’” (which is translated, “God-With-Us”).

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

1

Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother
 and child.
 Holy infant, so tender and
 mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.

2

Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the
 sight,
 glory streams from heaven
 afar,
 heavenly hosts sing:
 Hallelujah!
 Christ the Saviour is born,
 Christ the Saviour is born.

3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy
face,
with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the whole world. ² This was the first census, which took place while Quirinius was the governor of Syria. ³ Everyone went to be registered, each to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David in Judea, which is called Bethlehem, because he belonged to the house and line of David, ⁵ to register himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to have her Baby, ⁷ and she gave birth to her first-born Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

1

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.



2

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

AWAY IN A MANGER

1

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet
head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.



2

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-20

There were shepherds in the same district, staying out in the fields, watching over their flocks by night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, the glory of the Lord shone around them, and

they were very afraid. ¹⁰ The angel said to them, “Stop being afraid! For look! I am bringing you Good News of great joy, which will be for all the people, ¹¹ because a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord, has been born for you today, in the city of David. ¹² This will also be the sign to you: you will find an Infant wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, who were praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people whom He favours!”

¹⁵ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us!” ¹⁶ Then they came quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen Him, they declared to others the Word that had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸ All those who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary kept treasuring up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen. They were just as they had been told them.

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

1

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

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. →



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:

4

“The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all mealy wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.”

5

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”



SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Wise Men arrived from the East at Jerusalem.

² They asked, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³ When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ He called together all the Chief Priests and scribes of the people and tried to find out from them where the Christ would be born. ⁵ They told him, “At Bethlehem in Judea. For this is what Scripture has said through the prophet: ⁶ ‘You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means the least among the leading towns of Judah. For from you will come a Ruler, who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called the Wise Men and found out from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ When he sent them to Bethlehem, he said, “Go and search carefully for the Child and, when you find Him, report to me, that I too may go and worship Him!”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way. There was the star that they had seen in the East! It kept leading them on until it stopped over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰ They were extremely happy when they saw the star. ¹¹ When they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary. They knelt and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented gifts to Him, gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² When God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, they went back to their country by another road.



THE FIRST NOWELL

1

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

2

And by the light of a shining star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

3

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

4

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

5

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who has made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind has bought:

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

STILL, STILL, STILL

- 1 Still, still, still, the Christ-child rests, be still!
Sweet Mary sings and rocks her dear one,
holds Him close in fond devotion.
Still, still, still, the Christ-child rests, be still!
- 2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, O little one, now sleep!
The angels sing with jubilation,
praising Jesus, our salvation.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, O little one, now sleep!
- 3 Praise, praise, praise God's overwhelming grace!
The Lord has left His throne in heaven,
lowly years must here be given.
Praise, praise, praise God's overwhelming grace!

*Thank you for your attendance. Please join us in the hall for
supper*

Matthew 1:21 “She will give birth to a son, and you shall name Him ‘Jesus’! For He will save His people from their sins.”

Merry Christmas
