

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

God of God, Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created;

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Latin probably by JF Wade c1743

Thank you!

Thank you Father for this very special time of the year. Thank you for family gatherings, good food and great gifts. But above all we thank you for Jesus! Thank you that Jesus came to save us from our sin and to be with us now and always. Thank you that through Jesus, we can be forgiven and have eternal life, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Carol: Away in a manger

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.

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 side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven,
to live with thee there.

Saying sorry

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to his call we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ITEM: What child is this

Carol: Once in royal

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.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

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.

Mrs C.F.Alexander 1848

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

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 to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel. P Brooks 1868

VIDEO: The joy of Christmas: the joy of Jesus!

Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth - Luke 2:8-21

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, 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. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Who is Jesus? Saviour of the World

Carol: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and
nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns

let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Isaac Watts 1674-1748 based on Psalm 98

Time of Prayer

We are led in a short prayer, and conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Carol: Hark the Herald

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased Man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

C. Wesley 1739

Closing prayer