

# Carols Together...



## The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

## Preparation

In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

I bring you good news of great joy  
**A Saviour has been born to you.**  
**Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born,  
**unto us a Son is given.**  
**Alleluia**

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!  
**We worship and adore him.**  
**Alleluia!**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**And also with you**

## O come... let us adore

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:  
    O Come, let us adore him....

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest  
    O Come, let us adore him....

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born that happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
    O Come, let us adore him.....

*Text and music : possibly John Francis Wade  
trans. Frederick Oakeley et al  
(HON New Anglican Edition 357)*

## Prayers of Penitence

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty  
and laid in a manger;  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**

Spirit of Love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully  
to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

### **Absolution**

May God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **As it was foretold of old....**

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times."

*Micah 5 : 2*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by  
God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin  
engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the  
house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he  
came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The  
Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by  
his words and pondered what sort of greeting this  
might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for  
you have found favour with God. And now, you will  
conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will  
name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called  
the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give  
to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will  
reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his  
kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am  
a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will  
come upon you, and the power of the Most High  
will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born  
will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then  
Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it  
be with me according to your word." Then the angel  
departed from her.

*Luke 1 : 26 – 36, 37 - 38*

### **The angel Gabriel from heaven came**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify  
his holy name."  
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

*Text: Sabine Baring-Gould*

*Music: "Birjina Gaztettobat Zegoen", trad Basque melody  
HON Anglican 471*

### **The journey**

"There you saw how the LORD your God carried  
you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went  
until you reached this place."

*Deuteronomy 1 : 31*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor  
Augustus that all the world should be  
registered. This was the first registration and was  
taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be  
registered. Joseph also went from the town of  
Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David  
called Bethlehem, because he was descended from  
the house and family of David. He went to be  
registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and  
who was expecting a child.

*Luke 2 : 1 - 5*

### **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 hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

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

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 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 today!  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Text: Phillips Brooks Music: English Trad  
(STF 213)*

## **The birthing**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look,  
the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.

*Isaiah 7: 14*

While they were there, the time came for her to  
deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn  
son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him  
in a manger, because there was no place for them in  
the inn.

*Luke 2 : 6 - 7*

## **Silent Night**

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.

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.

*Text: Joseph Mohr, translated John F. Young  
Music 'Stille Nacht', Franz Gruber  
HON Angilcan edition 444*

## **Light & rejoicing: Shepherds & angels!**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

*Isaiah 9 : 2 , 6 - 7*

In that region there were shepherds living in the  
fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then  
an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the  
glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were  
terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be  
afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of  
great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in  
the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the  
Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child  
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a  
manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a  
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and  
saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth  
peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into  
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us  
go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has  
taken place, which the Lord has made known to  
us." So the shepherds went with haste and found  
Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*Luke 2 : 8 - 15*

## See him lying on a bed of straw

See him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore  
the prince of glory is his name.

○ now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the saviour of the world!

○ now carry me...

Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;  
Sing that Beth'lem's little baby can  
be the saviour of us all.

○ now carry me...

Mine are riches, from your poverty,  
from your innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,  
child of sorrow for my joy.

○ now carry me...

*Text: Michael Perry*

*Music: Calypso Carol, Michael Perry  
HON Anglican 440*

## In his strength / S. Stephen

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Colossians 3: 12 -17*

## Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
on the Feast of Stephen  
when the snow lay round about  
deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
though the frost was cruel  
when a poor man came in sight  
gathering winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me,  
if thou knowst it, telling,  
yonder peasant, who is he?  
where and what his dwelling?”

“Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
underneath the mountain  
right against the forest fence  
by Saint Agnes fountain.”

“Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
bring me pine logs hither;  
thou and I shall see him dine  
when we bear them thither.”

Page and monarch, forth they went  
forth they went together  
through the rude winds wild lament  
and the bitter weather

“Sire, the night is darker now  
and the wind blows stronger.  
Fails my heart, I know not how  
I can go no longer.”

“Mark my footsteps, good my page  
tread thou in them boldly,  
thou shall find the winters rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his masters step he trod  
where the snow lay dinted.  
Heat was in the very sod  
which the Saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
wealth or rank possessing;  
ye, who now will bless the poor  
shall yourselves find blessing.

*Text: John Mason Neale*

*Music: 'Tempus adest floridum' from Piaae Cantiones  
HON Anglican 183*

## ***The Magi***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Matthew 2: 1 -3, 7 - 12*

### ***In the bleak midwinter***

In the bleak mid-winter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter  
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,  
but only his mother in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him,  
Give my heart.

*Text: Christina Rossetti  
Music: Harold Darke  
HON Anglican Edition 248*

### ***For all time and in all places***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*John 1: 1 – 5, 14*

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*Matthew 28 : 18 - 20*

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

*Revelation 22: 13*

### ***Of the father's love begotten***

Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel-hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

*Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 – 413) transl. Neale*

*Music: Plainsong, adapted by Theodoricus Petrus in Piaecantiones*

(HON New Anglican Edition 395)

## Collect

Let us pray

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive them  
that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

## Where earth and heaven meet...

### The virgin Mary had a baby boy

The virgin Mary had a baby boy  
The virgin Mary had a baby boy  
The virgin Mary had a baby boy  
and they say that his name was Jesus

He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom

Oh yes, believer!  
Oh yes, believer!  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom

*Text and Music: Trad west Indian  
HON Anglican 496*

## The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary  
and the peace of the Christ-child,  
be yours this Christmas;

and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

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