

Crib Service

Christmas Eve



Welcome and Introduction - Canon James Reveley

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 tonight.

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.

Carol: Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load.

Been a long time, little donkey,
Through the winter's night;
Don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Follow that star tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

*Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Follow that star tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

Little donkey, little donkey,
Had a heavy day,
Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way.

Little donkey, little donkey,
Had a heavy day,
Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way. *(Repeat)*

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.

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.

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks

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

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

'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:

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin, and never cease.'



Carol: We three kings

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
Following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life
of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies:

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Lord, in your mercy,
All **Hear our prayer.**

Our Father, who 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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.



Choral item

Carol: Away in a manger *(adults seated, children standing)*

Children 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.

All 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 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.

Carol: Come and join the celebration

*Come and join the celebration. It's a very special day.
Come and share our jubilation; there's a new King born today!*

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem
Gaze in wonder, at the son of God who lay before them.

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
Kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar. So:

'God is with us,' round the world the message bring.
He is with us, 'Welcome,' all the bells on earth are pealing.



*You are welcome to take this order of service home with you.
Join us on Sundays at 10.30am for Junior Church and at other times in the week for Forest Church,
the Edward Bear Club and Story and Song Time.
Details of these and of all our services are on our website.*

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