



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022
Lessons and Carols

Carol

Once in Royal David's City

VU 62

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
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, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

*For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

Greeting and Declaration of Good News

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

The God of Love be praised:

***whose word speaks all things into being,
who is present in the expanse of the universe,
and in the hearts of all people.***

Praise the Living God,

***who comes as a child, full of promise
and hope for the fulfillment of peace and love.***

We come together in praise and worship.

Carol

O Come all ye Faithful

VU 60

*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.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We lit the first candle in hope, celebrating our hope that Your promise would soon be realized in our world.

May we remember that hope whenever we are anxious or in despair.

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright, VU 6 v.1
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

We lit the second candle in peace, praying for Your peace in our lives and throughout the world

May we invite ways that promote peace in our homes and around the world.

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace, VU 6 v.2
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

We lit the third candle with joy, celebrating the joy of Your birth and promise of new life.

May we remember that joy through the dark days of winter.

*A candle is burning, a candle of joy, VU 6 v.3
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow*

as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

We lit the fourth candle with love, celebrating Your love for us and our love for You.

May we remember that love, whenever we feel alone and unloved.

A candle is burning, a candle of love, VU 6 v.4

a candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,

for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We light the Christ Candle welcoming a tiny child who brings both love and challenge to a world in need.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, may we pass these blessings to the world throughout the year.

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame, VU 6 v.5

our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,

as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

The First Lesson The Donkey

Carol Jesus our Brother

VU 56 v.1,2,6

*Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.*

*'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
'I carried the mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.*

*Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.*

The Second Lesson The Lamb

Carol Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

VU 58

*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 born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!*

*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!*

The Third Lesson The Star

Carol Hope is a Star **VU 7**

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

Telling the Story Luke 2:1-20

Carol Joy to the World **VU 59**

*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 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.*

*He rules the earth 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.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

***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.

God of hope, of silent prayers and urgent cries,
we pray for your world and its people...
 for those who will spend this day alone;
 for those who will not enjoy a feast this day;
 for those whose tables will have an empty place this year.
Lift our hearts in anticipation of your vision.
Shine a light in the depth of fear.
Sing a song of joy in the lonely heart.

***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 all on earth.***

God of peace, on this Christmas day we pray
for the people of Bethlehem, of Israel and Palestine;
for refugees who have nowhere to lay their heads,
for those who find themselves in strange lands.
Watch over and protect them, God of the morning star.
Guide us in the ways of mercy and reconciliation.

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

Open our hearts, that we might receive you and hear your voice, Loving Creator.
May we share the gift of your heaven, your vision for all people:
hope of fulfillment, peace in our time,
joy that persists through trial and celebration,
and love that heals the wounded heart.

***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.***

Announcements and Offering

Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

*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 the 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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'*

*Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son 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 us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'*

Blessing and Benediction

Sing

Silent Night

VU 67

*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!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.*

*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.*