



CAROL SERVICE

CAROL Once in Royal David's city

*1st verse sung by Seal Children's Choir, 2nd verse choir. The congregation join in on verse 3.
Please stand for carols if you are able, but feel free to sit if standing is a problem for you.*

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, through all his wondrous childhood,
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

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;
when like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

OPENING RESPONSES

Priest: My friends, let us love one another, for love is of God.
All: **And whoever loves is born of God and knows God.**
Priest: Whoever does not love, does not know God
All: **For God is love.**
Priest: In this was the love of God made manifest among us
All: **That God sent his only Son into the world,**
 so that we might live through him.
Priest: In this is love, not that we loved God,
All: **But that he loved us.**
Priest: My friends, if God so loved us,
 we also ought to love one another.

CAROL

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 morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on 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 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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

CAROL

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 alleluia;
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.

As we sing the next carol, we will process into the church with the crib figures via the tower door, led by the choir. Please join the end of the procession as it passes, making sure to keep your distance from those around you if at all possible.

Face masks must be worn in church unless you are exempt. Facemasks and hand sanitiser will be available at various points inside the church and at the lychgate if you don't have your own.

CAROL

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:

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts oblations

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

Inside the church

CAROL

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 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.

CHOIR: The Lord at First did Adam Make – Trad., arr. Philip Le Bas

*1. The Lord at first did Adam make
Out of the dust and clay,
And in his nostrils breathed life,
E'en as the Scriptures say.
And then in Eden's Paradise
He placed him to dwell,
That he within it should remain*

To dress and keep it well.

*R. Now let good Christians all begin
An holy life to live,
And to rejoice and merry be,
For this is Christmas Eve.*

2. And thus within the garden he
Was set therein to stay,
And in commandment unto him
These words the Lord did say:
"The fruit which in the garden grows
To thee shall be for meat,
Except the tree in the midst thereof,
Of which thou shalt not eat."

3. "For in the day that thou shalt it touch,
Or dost to it come nigh;
If so thou do but eat thereof
Then surely thou shalt die."
But Adam he did take no heed
Unto that only thing,
But did transgress God's holy law,
And so was wrapt in sin.

4. Now mark the goodness of the Lord
Which he for mankind bore,
His mercy soon he did extend,
Lost man for to restore;
And then for to redeem our souls
From death and hellish thrall,
He said his own dear son should be
The Saviour of us all.

PRAYERS, finishing with the Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

CHOIR: The Nativity Carol, by John Rutter

1. Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star he who loved us so.

Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

2. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

3. Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from
starry hills,
Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he
fills.

4. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

READING John 1.1-14

The opening of John's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is God's Word. God speaks to us through his life, his death and his resurrection. The message he brings is that God can bring change - light for our darkness, life where there is death and despair. Nothing can put out the light of that love; nothing can silence God's Word.

CHOIR: O Holy Night – words: J S Dwight, music: Adolphe Adam, arr. Philip Le Bas

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!
He knows our need. He guardeth us from danger.
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

3. Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name!
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

BLESSING *Please stand if you are able*

CAROL 11 Hark the herald angels sing

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born 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 new-born 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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Many thanks for our music tonight to the choir, choir director Philip Le Bas, organist, Graham King,
and all our stewards and helpers.



If you would like to join our adult or children's choirs, you will be very welcome. .

DONATE to Seal Church

There will be a plate by the door as you leave so that you can contribute to the continuing ministry of this church. You can also donate by text to Seal Church. Just text **SEALCHURCH to 70085** to donate £5. Other amounts can be donated up to £20 by adding the number of pounds after the word. To donate £10, text SEALCHURCH10, for example, or SEALCHURCH3 to give £3. Donr.com charges a commission of 5% on each donation.

CONTACT TRACING

Please log your presence at this service by using the Government track and trace app if you can, with the QR code on the right.
If you cannot use the QR code, there will be contact slips in the pews which you can fill in and leave on the table at the back of church as you leave.

Scan this QR code with your
NHS COVID-19 App to check-in



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE:

3-5pm Christmas crib drop in – a chance to see the crib and receive a Christmas blessing from the vicar
(No crib service this year).

9pm First Communion of Christmas, with carols from the choir from 8.30pm.
Please note the time – this takes the place of our "Midnight Mass" this year

CHRISTMAS DAY:

10 am All Age Communion for Christmas Day, with a story in place of a sermon.

