

# Online Carol Service

## **CAROL - Once In Royal David's City**

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 meek and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior 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.

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.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848.

## **READING - Luke 1:26–35,38 / The angel Gabriel visits Mary**

*Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Having come in, the angel said to her, "Greetings, favored one. The Lord is with you."*

*But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered what kind of salutation this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And look, you will conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and will call his name 'Jesus.' He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. There will be no end to his kingdom."*

*Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, seeing I am a virgin?"*

*The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born will be called the Son of God. And Mary said, "See, the handmaid of the Lord; be it to me according to your word." The angel departed from her.*

*Thanks be to God.*

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## **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 earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ.  
While fields and streams And hills and  
plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
The wonders of His love,  
The wonders of His love,  
The wonders, wonders of His love.

*Words: Isaac Watts, 1719.*

**READING - Luke 2:1-7 / The Birth of Jesus**  
*Now it happened in those days, that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; to enroll himself with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him, being pregnant.*

*It happened, while they were there, that the day had come when she should give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him with pieces of cloth, and placed him in a feeding trough, because there was no guest room available for them.*

*Thanks be to God.*

## **CAROL - 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!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,

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Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of saving grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Words: Fr. Joseph Mohr, 1816.

## **READING - Luke 2:8-20 / The shepherds go to the manger**

*There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And look, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough."*

*Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward humankind."*

*And it happened that when the angels went away from them into the sky, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go to Bethlehem,*

*now, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." They came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in the feeding trough. When they saw it, they made known the saying which was spoken to them about this child. All who heard it wondered at the things which were spoken to them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, just as it was told them.*

*Thanks be to God.*

## **CAROL - While Shepherds Watched**

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 Savior, 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 swaddling bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

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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 to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate, 1700.

## **READING - Matthew 2:1-12 / The wise men are led by the star to Jesus**

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, look, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and have come to worship him."*

*And when King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Messiah would be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written through the prophet, 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come forth a ruler who will shepherd my people, Israel.'"*

*Then Herod secretly called the wise men, and learned from them exactly what time the star appeared. 8And he sent them to Bethlehem,*

*and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child, and when you have found him, bring me word, so that I also may come and worship him."*

*And they, having heard the king, went their way; and look, the star which they saw in the east went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Being warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they went back to their own country another way.*

*Thanks be to God.*

## **CAROL - As With Gladness Men of Old**

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So, may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

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Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down;  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King!

Words: W. Chatterton Dix.

## **READING - John 1:1-14 / The Light of the World**

*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 were made through him, and apart from him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it.*

*There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world was made through him, but the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Thanks be to God.*

## **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!

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

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Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu', to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing:

*Words: Traditional. Frederick Oakeley, altd.*

## **PRAYER**

### **CAROL - Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

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 heav'n 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 men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Hail! the heaven-born 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 man no more may die:  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. altd.*

### **Thank You for coming**

We hope you enjoyed the service.

You can find out lots more about  
Christmas at [www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com)