

Lyrics & Readings - Carol service 2023

Once in Royal David's City

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

The First Reading, in which God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head, is taken from Genesis 3:8-19

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

3. O ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

4. For lo the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold
When the new heaven and earth shall own the prince of peace, their King
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men From heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

The Second Reading, in which God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, is taken from Genesis 22:15-18

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your

offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart, Prepare Him room
And heaven and nature
Let heaven and nature sing
Let heaven, and heaven and nature sing

2. Joy to the world, The Savior reigns,
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

3. No more let sins 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.

4. He rules the world 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.

The Third Reading, in which the prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour, is taken from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with

righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

O Come O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high, and cause Thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord, and turn the key to heaven's door
Be Thou our comforter and guide and lead us to the Father's side

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall by His Word our darkness dispel

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede: Thy sacrifice, our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear; Thy precious blood has brought us near
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell

O Come, Thou King of nations, bring an end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease and reign now as our Prince of Peace

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come again with us to dwell*

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee, dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to Earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;

by His life He brings us gladness, our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all!

4. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit; rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

The Fourth Reading, in which the angel Gabriel promises Mary a child of the Holy Spirit; and Mary gives birth to Jesus, is taken from Luke 1:30–38 and 2:1, 3-7

“And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,

Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-wingèd seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"

Silent Night, Lonely Night

1. Silent night, lonely night
All but calm, all but bright
Darkened clouds have hidden God's face
Deepening doubts have veiled His grace
Have You heard our cries?
Have You heard our cries?

2. Silent night, lonely night
Wearied by many trials
Clinging to the promise foretold
Peace and comfort for our souls
Lord, we long for You
Lord, we long for You

*Jesus, You entered our night
Bore our sorrows, laid down Your life
Conquered the darkness and rose up in light
All of our hope is in You*

3. Silent night, lonely night
Yet there's peace, at Your side
Covered by redeeming blood
Sheltered in Your arms of love
Christ, the Savior is born
Christ, the Savior is born

*Jesus, You entered our night
Bore our sorrows, laid down Your life*

*Conquered the darkness and rose up in light
All of our hope is in You*

Silent night, holy night
All is calm and bright

The Fifth Reading, in which the shepherds go to the manger, is taken from Luke 2:8–16

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

What Child Is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.*

2. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him

*Raise, raise a song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born: The Babe, the Son of Mary*

*This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud: the Babe, the Son of Mary*

*Nails, spears shall pierce Him through; the Cross He bore for me, for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh: The Babe, The Son of Mary*

The Sixth Reading, in which the wise men are led by the star to Jesus, is taken from Matthew 2:1-12

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

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, long, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, 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.

The Seventh Reading, in which John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation, is taken from the book of John 1:1-14.

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 without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 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 dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

1. One star burns in the darkness
Shines with the promise: Emmanuel
One child born in the stillness
Living within us: Emmanuel

We're singing Glory! Glory!
Let there be peace let there be peace
We're singing Glory! Glory!
Let there be peace let it start in me

2. One voice speaks for the voiceless
Hope for the hopeless Emmanu-el
One love brings us together

Now and forever Emmanuel

We're singing Glory! Glory!
Let there be peace let there be peace
We're singing Glory! Glory!
Let there be peace let it start in me

Do not be afraid
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us

We're singing Glory! Glory!
Let there be peace let there be peace
We're singing Glory! Glory!
Let there be peace let it start in me
Let there be peace let it start in me
Let there be peace let it start in me

Come Light our Hearts

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in you
Truly our hope is in you.

1. O Lord of life, our only hope, Your radiance shines
On all who look, to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in you
Truly our hope is in you

2. O Joy above all other loves,
In you we find more than enough
We come as we are,
O heal and restore;
Come light our hearts

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in you
Truly our hope is in you
Truly our hope is in you*

Come, All Ye Faithful

Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, oh 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
O sing all ye citizens of Heav'n above
Glory to God, glory in the highest

*O come let us adore Him, o come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

Yes Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

*O come let us adore Him, o come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

*For He alone is worthy, o He alone is worthy,
Yes He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.*

*We'll praise our God forever! We'll praise our God forever!
We'll praise our God forever, He is the Lord!*