



All Saints Offord Carol Service

Welcome and opening prayer

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

And also with you

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
a light no darkness can quench.

Lord Jesus Christ, help us this night to join our songs of praise to those of the heavenly host, that the joy of the church on earth may be heard in the praise of heaven. Amen.

Carol *(first verse solo)*

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.

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.

Reading Isaiah 9 verses 2 and 6 and 7

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.

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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Reading Luke 1.26-33 and 38

Carol 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 world! the Saviour reigns;
let us our 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 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.

Reading Matthew 1 verses 18 – 25

Angel Voices Of the Fathers love begotten

Reading Luke 2 verses 1 - 7

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.

Reading Luke 2.8-20

Carol 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 th'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.
*Hark! the herald Angels sing
glory to the new-born King*

Hail the heav'n-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.
*Hark! the herald Angels sing
glory to the new-born King*

Poem The Night Before Christmas

Carol 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 ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him whom angels fall down before
the ox and ass and camel, which adore.

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.

Prayers

Leader Wherever the world is in darkness, Lord,
All **Let there be light**



The Lord's 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.



Reading John 1 verses 1-14

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:

*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!*

Blessing and Dismissal

God our Father, your word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

May the light of faith illumine our hearts,
and shine in our words and deed.

And may the blessing of God the Father,

God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us now and always

Amen

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