

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n:
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
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!

Reading Luke 1: 26-35, 38a (The Annunciation)

Carol **Angels from the realms of glory**

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, worship Christ the King
Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light;
Come and worship, worship Christ the King
Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, ye have seen His natal star,
Come and worship, worship Christ the King
Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Reading Luke 2: 1-7 (The birth of Jesus)

Carol **Silent night**

1	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.	2	Silent night, holy night Shepherds quake at the sight: Glorious stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born
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3 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 (Shepherds visit the holy family)

Carol **Joy to the world**

Joy to the world, the Lord has 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;
Your sweetest songs employ,
While fields and streams and 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,
The wonders of His love, the wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

Reading Matthew 2: 1-11 (Herod and the wise men)

Carol **We three kings**

1 We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.	3 (Women) Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh, Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship him, God most high.
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Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.	4 (Young people) Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
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Refrain

2 (Men) Born a King on Bethlehem plain Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.	5 Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice; Heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia the earth replies
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Refrain

'The Grenadillas' - Fantasia on Personent Hodie (German c1360)

Reading (All stand) John 1: 1-18 (The mystery of the incarnation)

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

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb.
Very God, Begotten, not created
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

Talk Stephen Hills

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2 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 th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3 Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n 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!"

Blessing



St Mary Magdalene Carol Service 2025

Welcome

Carol Once in Royal David's City (Solo verse 1)

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.

4. 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 feebleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

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.

5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

3. 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.

6. 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,
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Reading Isaiah 9: 2,6-7 (The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah)

Carol O little town of Bethlehem (Unaccompanied verse 3)

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.

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 men on earth!