



Carol Service

Welcome

Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14

1. Come thou long expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free,
From our sins and fears release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the world thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

1. Once in Royal Davids 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. 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.

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 feelth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

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 heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

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;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around
Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Prayer

1. While Shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind),
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid'.

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

1. God rest ye merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
*O Tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!*
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
*O Tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!*
O tidings of comfort and joy!

3. And when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling

Unto the Lord did pray:
*O Tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!*
O tidings of comfort and joy!

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All anger should efface:
*O Tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!*
O tidings of comfort and joy!
Traditional

Reading: Luke 2: 1-7

1. Unto us a child is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation
The Lord of every nation.

2. Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses
That he all men surpasses.

3. Herod then with fear was filled:
'A Prince' he said, 'in Jewry!'
All the little boys he killed
At Bethlem in his fury.

At Bethlem in his fury.

4. Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.
Unto the joys above us.

5. Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder
Doth rend the air asunder.

Traditional

Tr Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Reading: Luke 2: 8-20

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,

And to follow the star wherever it went:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.
Anonymous

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

1. 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.*

2. 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 men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel:
*Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

3. 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 new-born King.*
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Prayer

Reading: John 1: 1-14
Benediction