

4th Sunday in Advent – Carol Service
Hymn Sheet for Sunday 22nd December

Welcome and lighting of 4 candles

Introduction to the Theme and Call to Worship including:

Leader: We wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus, the promised Messiah

ALL: We will wait upon the Lord

Leader: We gaze in wonder at the birth of our Saviour

ALL: His name shall be called Wonderful

Leader: We hope for eternal life in Christ Jesus

ALL: We have Christ in us, the hope of glory

Carol

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.

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 should be,
mild, obedient, good as He.

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.

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.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Reading 1 – Isaiah 9 : 2 - 7

Carol

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the chains of sin before Him break,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes to free the captive mind
where evil thoughts control;
and for the darkness of the blind,
gives light that makes them whole.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure;
and with the treasures of His grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with Your beloved name.

Reading 2 - Micah 5 : 2 – 4

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.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth....
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

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 3 - Luke 1: 26 - 38

Talk 1 – Waiting

Reading 4 - Luke 2 : 1 – 7

Choir: Born is the light of the world

Carol

Come and hear the joyful singing, Alleluia, gloria,
set the bells of heaven ringing, alleluia, gloria,
God the Lord has shown us favour alleluia, gloria,
Christ is born to be our saviour. alleluia, gloria!

Angels of his birth are telling, Alleluia, gloria,
prince of peace all powers excelling; alleluia, gloria,
death and hell cannot defeat him: alleluia, gloria,
go to Bethlehem and greet him. alleluia, gloria!

Choir and people, shout in wonder, Alleluia, gloria,
let the merry organ thunder; alleluia, gloria,
thank our God for love amazing, alleluia, gloria,
Father, Son and Spirit praising. alleluia, gloria!

Reading 5 - Luke 2 : 8 - 16

Carol

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight through all the earth;
heralds of creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth!
*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King;
come and worship,
worship Christ the new-born King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching by your flocks at night,
God with man is now residing:
see, there shines the infant light!
Come and worship

Wise men, leave your contemplations!
brighter visions shine afar;
seek in Him the hope of nations,
you have seen His rising star:
Come and worship

Though an infant now we view Him,
He will share His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to Him;
every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship

Talk 2 - Wondering

Reading 6 – Matthew 2 : 1 – 11

Carol

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we travel afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. ~
O star of wonder . . .

Frankincense for Jesus have I,
God on earth yet Priest on high;
prayer and praising all men raising:
worship is earth's reply.
O star of wonder . . .

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
tells of His death and Calvary's gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in a stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder . . .

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings out `Alleluia',
`Amen' the earth replies.
O star of wonder . . .

Choir: In the Bleak mid-winter

Reading 7 – John 1 : 1 – 14

Carol

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come now, O come now 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, ...

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heavn above,
`Glory to God, in the highest':
O come, let us adore Him, ...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n:
Word of the Father, then in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, ...

Talk 3 - Hoping

Prayers of Intercession followed by Offertory and Offertory Prayer

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 the 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 Immanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
`Glory to the new-born King!'

Hail, the heaven-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!'

The Grace

Exit Music: "In Dulci Jubilo" by J S Bach