

Outside Carol Service
December 14th
2024
St George's Churchyard: 5pm



Welcome

Silent Night Holy Night
All is calm, all is bright

BC – AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.
This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.
This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.
And this was the moment
Then a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven

By U A Fanthorpe

Carol: Ding Dong Merrily On High

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! (x2)

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! (x2)

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers,
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve'time song, ye singers
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! (x2)

Q : I wonder, what brings us times of calm
and what or who brings times of brightness?

Gabriel's Story

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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 the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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 the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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!"

Joseph's story

Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm all is bright

Carol: O Little Town Of Bethlehem

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 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 today,
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

A Shepherd's Story

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All is calm all is bright

Carol: While Shepherd's Watch

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around
"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind"

"To you, in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign"
"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid"

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song
"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease"

Mary's Story

Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm all is bright

Carol: Silent Night (*Lights twinkling with phones and torches*)

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
rests in heavenly peace,
rests in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Guiding star, lend thy light.
See the Eastern wise men bring,
gifts and homage to our King
Jesus Christ is here!
Jesus Christ is here!

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light
with the angels let us sing,
hallelujahs to our King.
Jesus Christ is here!
Jesus Christ is here!

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory,
are yours now and forever. Amen

Bible Reading John 1: 1-5,14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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:

Chorus:

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;

Chorus

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God, in the highest:

Chorus

You are very welcome to stay for hot chocolate and cookies in the church.

A Final Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

For extra fun...as we wait for hot chocolate and cookies:-

**Though the shadows gather
there's a light that shines forever.
From the bright beginning,
till the day the earth stops spinning.**

**And I feel that brightness
rising up in me,
making me the person
that I am meant to be.**

**Show me the way to shine for Jesus!
Let my love light up this Christmas
changing dark to light around us,
oh sweet Jesus, shine in me. (x2)**

**Sha la la la la la
Sha la la la la la
Sha la la la la la
oh sweet Jesus, shine in me.**

**All the light and glory
turned into the Christmas story.
See the darkened stable
lit up with a newly born baby.**

**And the Son still shines now
turning night to day.
Loving, healing, saving –
he makes me want to say:**

**Show me the way to shine for Jesus!
Let my love light up this Christmas
changing dark to light around us,
oh sweet Jesus, shine in me. (x2)**

Sha la la etc.

Words by Lucy Moore

Tune: Amarillo

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