

Christmas Eve Crib Service 2024



WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

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.

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. 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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: MARY AND JOSEPH

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!'

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: THE SHEPHERDS

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 might 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, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

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

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: THE WISE MEN

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their
sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

2. They lookèd 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:
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
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 wheresoever it
went:
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

4. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of
naught,
And with his blood our life hath bought:
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel*

TALK

*Come and join the celebration, it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation, there's a new King born today!*

1. See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them:

2. Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so,

3. 'God is with us,' round the world the message bring,
he is with us, 'Welcome,' all the bells on earth are pealing:

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

PRAYERS

1. 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.*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, begotten not created:

3. Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above.
Glory to God, in the highest:

BLESSING

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