

#### WELCOME

CAROL

Once in Royal David's City It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

READING Isaiah 9: 2, 6&7

CAROL
O Little Town Of Bethlehem

READING Luke 2:1-7

CAROL
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

READING Luke 2:8-16

CAROL
We Three Kings

READING
Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL
O Come, All ye Faithful

Seasonal Thought

CAROL Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Blessing

#### WELCOME

### ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818–1895)/ Music by HJ Gauntlett

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 meek, 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 must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

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.

# IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) © Jubilate Hymns

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near
the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to
men
from heaven's all-gracious
King."

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

With sorrow brought by sin and strife
the world has suffered long, and since the angels sang, have passed
two thousand years of wrong; for man at war with man hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, you men of strife, and hear the angels sing!

And those whose journey now is hard,
whose hope is burning low,
who tread the rocky path of life with painful steps and slow:
O listen to the news of love which makes the heavens ring!
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

And still the days are hastening on —

by prophet seen of old —
towards the fulness of the time
when comes the age foretold:
then earth and heaven renewed
shall see
the Prince of Peace, their king;
and all the world repeat the
song
which now the angels sing.

READING Isaiah 9:2;6&7

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

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 2:1-7

# WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, an 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
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:"

The heavenly babe you there
shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God on high who thus addressed their song:

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease!"

> READING Luke 2:8-16

### WE THREE KINGS

John H Hopkins Jr (1820 - 1891)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

O star of wonder...

Frankincense to offer have 1; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder...

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder...

## READING Matthew 2:1-11

## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

From the Latin (18th century) trad. Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)

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;

O come, let us adore Him...

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him...

SEASONAL THOUGHT

### HARK! THE HAROLD ANGELS SING

Charles Wesley (1708-1788) and others

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 hosts proclaim,

"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to
dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 we no more may die, born to
raise us from the earth, born to
give us second birth.

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

BLESSING

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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