

Christmas Eve

Children's service



St George's Anglican Church East Ivanhoe 2018

The Welcome

The Lord be with you
And also with you

The lighting of the advent wreath

Through Advent, Sunday by Sunday,
the candles on our Advent Ring have been lit,
making this ring brighter and brighter.
Tonight is the brightest night of all
for tonight the Light of Christ comes into the world
The Light that no darkness can put out
The Light that leads us to Love
So let us all gather up that Light tonight and reflect it back
into the world.

Amen

The Carol

O come all ye faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
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. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God, glory in the highest':

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Possibly by John Francis Wade c.1711–1786
tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802–80,
William Thomas Brooke 1848–1917 (vv.3–5) and others

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THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS PART 1

The Carol (*During which all of the angels come to the front of the Church*)

The first Nowell

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. When they looked up they 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, ...

3. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell, nowell ...

Harmony from the *Revised Church Hymnal* 1927 by permission Oxford University Anon., English c.17th cent. Reproduced with permission

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS PART 2

The Carol (*During which all of the kings come to the front of the Church*)

We three Kings

1. 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 night

Star with royal beauty bright

*Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
gold I bring to crown Him again
king forever, ceasing never
over us all to rein

O Star of wonder, star of night...

3. Frankincense to offer have I
incense owns a Deity nigh
prayer and praising, all men raising
worship Him, God most high

O Star of wonder, star of night.

John H. Hopkins 1820-1891 in the public domain.

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS PART 3

The Carol *(During which the shepherds come to the front of the Church)*

While Shepherds Watched

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," he said,
For mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind."

3. "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
And this shall be the sign."

4. "The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped
In swathing bands
And in a manger laid
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
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
Begin and never cease!"

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS PART 4

The Carol (During which all of the children return to their parents & guardians)

Away in a manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

vv. 1–2, Anon. ?1885

v.3, Anon. 1892

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The Prayers

Let us pray.

Loving and generous God

We praise and thank you for the joys of Christmas:

For the music, the gathering of family, and of friends,

For the gifts we give and receive.

We thank you most of all for your gift to us,

The gift born this very night – the baby Jesus.

In thanksgiving we rejoice in this gift

And pray that we might each receive

the gift of faith this Christmas.

In thanksgiving and gratitude

we praise you for your goodness to us

and pray that you will make us ever mindful

of the need and wants of others

and especially of those who go without this Christmas.

As these precious children, here gathered
Remind us of the birth of your Son Jesus
That first Christmas Day;
May Christ be born in our lives this day,
And every day.

These, and all our prayers
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Christmas blessing

The innkeeper welcomed the family and offered what little room he had;

The Shepherds saw Angels and skipped with joy to Bethlehem;

The Kings followed a star and found the baby Jesus;

May we all be people of welcome and joy who are guided by Christ the Light.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The clergy and people of St George's
Anglican Church wish you a happy and
holy Christmas.

