

CRIB SERVICE 2021

Informal Welcome

The Christmas tree lights are switched on

Introduction

A warm welcome to you all this afternoon.

During Advent we have been getting ready in church to welcome Jesus coming into the world as a baby at Christmas. Today we celebrate the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, we hear again the story of his coming, and we offer to God our thanks in prayer and song.

A candle is lit

Jesus Christ is the light of the world
Jesus is our Way.

With Jesus even dark places are light
Jesus is the Truth.

In Jesus we shall live for ever
Jesus is our Life.

Prayer

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.

Bible Reading (Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. The girl's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!" Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth

to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”

Thanks be to God

Carol (521)

**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 needy, poor, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

Text © 1996 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Bible Reading (Luke 2:1-7)

At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger - there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Thanks be to God

The figures of Mary and Joseph are put in the stable

Carol (508)

**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 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.**

Tune © OUP

Bible Reading (Luke 2:8-14)

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us."

Thanks be to God

The figures of the Shepherds are put in the stable

Carol (745)

**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".**

**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 on the earth be peace,
goodwill henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease".**

Bible Reading (Matthew 2:1-12)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judaea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.'"

So Herod called the visitors from the east to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child, and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their own country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Thanks be to God

The figures of the Wise Men are put in the stable

Carol (724)

**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.*

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia,
earth to heav'n replies.**

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

Talk

The baby Jesus is put in the manger

Blessing of the crib

Let us pray that God our Father will bless this crib.

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day:

bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

Amen.

Carol (776)

**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.**

**The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee 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 thee there.**

Prayers

Lord, by the song of the angels
you disclosed your birth to your own people,
and by the leading of a star
you revealed your glory to strangers.
Teach us to know you now,
and to make you known to all.
Amen.

The kings, Lord,
brought myrrh, frankincense and gold.
Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring;
we bring you what you have given:
our lives for your life.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
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 for ever. Amen**

The Christmas Candle is lit

Blessing

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds
the good news of Jesus' birth.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

You have heard his story,
the story of God's own Son.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

May he fill you with joy
to bring this good news to others today.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

Carol (589)

**See him lying on a bed of straw;
a draughty stable with an open door.
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
the Prince of Glory is his name.**

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of Love again;
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of Glory when he came.*

**Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!**

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of Love again;
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of Glory when he came.*

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
be the Saviour of us all.**

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of Love again;
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of Glory when he came.*

**Mine are riches, from your poverty;
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.**

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of Love again;
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of Glory when he came.*

© 1965 Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymn

*Bible passages from Good News Translation © Bible Society
Liturgy © copyright The Archbishops' Council 2000*

*St Christopher's holds Church Copyright Licences for music that is copied or livestreamed.
For further details see: <https://stchristopherschurch.org.uk/about-us/pcc/church-copyright-licensing>*