

CAROL SERVICE AT HOME: SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020

Before we join together: to help us prepare, sing these two songs:

In the bleak midwinter - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwSV-b9vAUQ>

Joy to the world - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8GOFsGvGk>

Welcome

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)*

Carol: 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:

*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...*

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God, in the highest: *O come...*

Yea Lord, we greet Thee, born that happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *O come...*

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Bible reading

Isaiah 9:2-9, 53:5-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult & every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

... But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned -- every one -- to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Carol – Angels from the realms of glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight through all the earth;
heralds of creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth!

*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King;
come and worship,
worship Christ the new-born King*

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching by your flocks at night,
God with man is now residing:
see, there shines the infant light!
Come and worship...

3. Wise men, leave your contemplations!
Brighter visions shine afar;
seek in Him the hope of nations,
you have seen His rising star:

Come and worship...

4. though an infant now we view Him,
He will share His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to Him;
every knee shall then bow down:

Come and worship...

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Bible Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-- the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Prayers

Carol – Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and 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;
Glories stream 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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Bible reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Bible reading and address – Mark 10:45

Carol – Hark the herald angels sing

Hark! The herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.

2. Christ by highest heaven 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 new-born King.

3. 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 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 new-born King.

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Christmas blessing

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