

Worship in Song

Sing we the song of Emmanuel

Welcome

Worship in Song

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

Jesus 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 feels for all our sadness
And he shares in all our gladness

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 has gone

Lighting the Advent Candles

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world. Amen.

Confession

We confess that amid all the joys and festivities of this season, we have sometimes forgotten what Christmas really means, and have left the Lord Jesus out of our thinking and living:
Father, forgive us.

Help us to remember that you have loved the world so much that you gave your only Son who was born to be our Saviour:
Lord, help us.

We confess that we have allowed the most important event in history to become dulled by familiarity:
Father, forgive us.

Help us to recapture a sense of wonder and discover again that the Creator of the universe has come to us as a newborn baby:
Lord, help us.

We confess to a selfish enjoyment of Christmas while we do little to help the homeless families of your world:
Father, forgive us.

Fill our hearts with the love that cares, that understands and gives; show us how we can best serve those in need; for the sake of him who was born in a stable, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Prayer for Today

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible Reading

Luke 1.26-38 (*Church Bible page 855*)

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Prayer

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Amen.

Song of Worship

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 morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace upon the earth
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love

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

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

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith in the Son of God:
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of us all. The Word became flesh and

lived for a while among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of God be always with you.
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

God of life, Saviour of the poor, receive with this money gratitude for your goodness, penitence for our pride and dedication to your service in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in words of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Worship in Song

Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Worship in Song

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold

God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless he lay the Invincible
Maker of Mary now Mary's son

O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds sages before him fall
Grace and majesty what humility
Come on bended knee adore him

Bridge

Gloria Gloria

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads for your King has come
Sing for the light overwhelms the dark

Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive let the gospel ring
God has made a way, he will have the praise
Tell the world his name is Jesus

Worship in Song

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing (*repeat*)
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Saviour reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy (*repeat*)
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found (*repeat*)
Far as far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love (*repeat*)
And wonders wonders of his love

Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose Mary to be the
mother of the promised saviour: fill us your
servants with your grace, that in all things we
may embrace your holy will and with her
rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Worship in Song

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

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 meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid

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 hence forth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease

Blessing

The joy of the angels, the wonder of the
shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child, fill
your hearts this Christmas time; and the
blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.