

Worship in Song

Sing we the song of Emmanuel

Video - The very first Christmas

Welcome & Poem (BC to AD)

This was the moment when Before turned into After
This was the moment when nothing happened. Only
dull peace sprawled boringly over the earth This was
the moment when even energetic Romans could find
nothing better to do than counting heads in remote
places. And this was the moment when a few farm
workers and a few members of an obscure Persian
sect walked haphazardly by starlight straight into the
kingdom of heaven.

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

Lighting the Advent Candles

Lord Jesus, Light of Light, you have come among
us. Help us who live by your light, to shine as
lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest!

Thanksgiving

God our Father, as we listen again to the story
of Christmas and we are glad that Jesus has
come to be our saviour and our friend.

We hear how Mary laid her baby in a manger,
Jesus has come; thank you Father

We hear how the angels sang over the Bethlehem
hills 'Glory to God, peace for the world'
Jesus has come; thank you Father

We hear how the shepherds hurried to see the
truth of the angels words
Jesus has come; thank you Father

We hear how the wise men came to bring their
worship and their precious gifts
Jesus has come; thank you Father.

O God, we thank you that Jesus has come to
be our saviour and our friend:
we welcome him with love, and serve him
with gladness, for your glory's sake. Amen.

The Special Prayer for Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-
begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as
at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that
we, who have been born again and made your
children by adoption and grace, may daily be
renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ
your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen.

Bible Reading

Luke 2.1-20 (*New Testament p857*)

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

Sermon

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

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Words from the beginning of John's Gospel

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.

Intercessions

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

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. Amen.

The Communion

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 all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to 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 songs 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

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 good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong

And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring
O hush the noise ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing

Worship in Song

Ding dong, merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong, verily the sky
Is riven with angels singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o.
By priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your eve time song, ye singers.

Worship in Song

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 cradle 'til morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, whose Word has come among
us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light
of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our
words and deeds; through him who is Christ the
Lord. Amen.

Worship in Song

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 the 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 the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

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

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.