

Introduction to Worship

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

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

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And 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

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel
the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us
examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our
unworthiness to stand in your presence as
your children.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the
mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to
your will.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a
manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of
your ways.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to
Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack
of vision.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus
the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our
sins that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Special Prayer for Today

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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. 8-20 (*New Testament p857*)

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

Sermon

Worship in Song

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter long ago

Our God heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he
comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels, may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But his mother only in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Belovèd, with a kiss

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what can I give him, give my heart

An 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.

Prayers

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

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and
his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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 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 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

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang 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.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing:
Yonder shines the infant light!

Wise men, leave your contemplations!
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great 'Desire of nations'
Ye have seen his natal star.

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.

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

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

Love came down at Christmas

Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your
Church to live as one family, united in love and
obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in
heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship in Song

From the squalor of a borrowed stable
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race

But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit
Filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal
He was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath He fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free
Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honour
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved
'Til His Father calls to bring them home
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms
Giving glory to Immanuel

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, the Father, God the Son and
God the Holy Spirit, be with you now and
always. Amen. Amen.

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