

Worship in Song

In the darkness there's a light before me

Video (The three wise men) & Welcome

Worship in Song

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward beaming bright
So most gracious Lord may we
Evermore be led to thee

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat

As their precious gifts they laid
At thy manger roughly made
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ to thee our heavenly King

Holy Jesu every day
Keep us in the narrow way
And when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds thy glory hide

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light
Thou its light its joy its crown
Thou its sun which goes not down
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King

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.

Prayer for Today

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested
your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we, who know you now by
faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;
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

Matthew 2:1-23 (*New Testament p807*)

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

Sermon

Worship in Song

In the darkness there's a light before me
And it drives away my fear

In the silence there's a voice that calls me
And it tells me you are near

In the chaos there's a hand that holds me
And will never let me go
Yes I know that you are always for me
For your word has told me so

I will follow you, I will walk by faith
You have brought me near by your unrelenting grace
I will set my mind on the things above
You have won my heart with your everlasting love

I was lost but then you came and found me
And in love you brought me home
I was dead in sin but then you raised me
I am saved by grace alone

For no height no depth no life no death
No power on earth can take us from your love
No height no depth no life no death
No power on earth can take us from your love

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy

catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

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 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 honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and say our joyful hymn of praise:

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey

his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, 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.

Worship in Song

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
Was there found no room for thy holy nativity.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
To proclaim thy royal degree;
Yet in lowly birth
Didst thou come to earth, and in deepest humility.

Though fox found rest, and the bird its nest
In the shade of the cedar tree;
Yet the earth was the bed,
For the weary head, in the desert of Galilee.

Thou camest Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
Yet with mocking scorn
And with crown of thorn, they bore thee to Calvary.

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying,
"Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee."

Worship in Song

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven you came running
There was mercy in your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died

And the morning that you rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By his blood and in His Name
In his freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Worship in Song

My soul finds rest in God alone
My rock and my salvation
A fortress strong against my foes
And I will not be shaken
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse
And lies like arrows pierce me
I'll fix my heart on righteousness
I'll look to him who hears me

O praise him hallelujah
My delight and my reward
Everlasting never failing
My Redeemer my God

Find rest my soul in God alone
Amid the world's temptations
When evil seeks to take a hold
I'll cling to my salvation
Though riches come and riches go
Don't set your heart upon them
The fields of hope in which I sow
Are harvested in heaven

I'll set my gaze on God alone
And trust in him completely
With every day pour out my soul
And he will prove his mercy
Though life is but a fleeting breath
A sigh too brief to measure
My King has crushed the curse of death
And I am his forever

O praise him O praise him
Hallelujah hallelujah

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the
nations seek: may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light discern the
glory of your presence in your Son, the Word
made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship in Song

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God:
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross. (repeat)

Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image
of his glory and gladden your hearts with the
good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of
God, the Father, God the Son and God the Holy
Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen.

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