

St Paul's Church, Wokingham

The Crib Service

in St Paul's Junior School Playground
Christmas Eve 2021

The Welcome and Gathering

An Opening Carol

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 mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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 is gone.

Part I: Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

A Reading

A Carol

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 to-night.

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

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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

A Question and a Prayer

Part 2: The Angels and the Shepherds

A Reading

A Carol

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,
the Saviour who is Christ the Lord
and this shall be the sign:

The heav'n'ly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed
all meanly wrapped in swathing 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 earth
Begin and never cease."

A Question and a Prayer

Part 3: The Wise Men come travelling, and the animals too

A Reading

A Carol

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. *Chorus*

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high. *Chorus*

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Chorus*

A Question and a Prayer

Part 4: The Baby Jesus lies in a manger

A Reading

A Carol

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 side until 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. 🙏

A Question and a Prayer

The Final Hymn

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 th'angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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 man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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: *Refrain*

The Closing Prayer and the Blessing

Do please stay for a warm drink and a chat in the School playground.



We are collecting money for The Children's Society who we collect for every Christmas Eve, in support of the amazing work they do across the country in supporting vulnerable children and teenagers and speaking up for them to Government. Do please donate now, or visit childrenssociety.org.uk

Whatever the rest of your Christmas looks like we wish you a relaxing and happy time- whatever it looks like, whatever limits, Jesus is still born and all of creation sings Alleluia with you.

Thank you to Mrs Taylor and Steve and everyone who worked so hard to make this event possible. You are such stars that you might want to look over your shoulder to check that no Wise Travellers are following you on their camels...

