



# Online Carols

December 2020

## Collect

God our Redeemer,  
Who prepared the 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 forever,  
Amen.

## 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 through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay.  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he 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 feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in 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 is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander*

## **Reading - Matthew 1:18-25**

### *The angel reveals the identity of Mary's child*

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, 'God with us.'

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.  
(NIV)

## Choir

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 for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Anon.*

## Reading - Luke 2:1-7

### *The birth of Jesus Christ*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

# Prayers

## 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 forever,  
Amen.

## Carol

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, goodwill to men  
From heav'n'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.

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.

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.

*E. H. Sears*

## **Reading - John 1:1-14**

*John explains how, in Christ, God became a man*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his

dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV)

## Carol

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heav'nwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

*F. Houghton*

## Talk

David Horrocks

## Carol

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God  
In the highest:'

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing.

*Tr. Frederick Oakeley, altd.*

## **Final Prayer**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill us with peace and goodwill, and make us partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

*We wish you a very merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year.*

*We meet at Barkham Church every Sunday, at 10am and 6pm, and would be delighted to see you again. For further details of what goes on in all our churches, including for children and young people on Sunday mornings and during the week, please visit the website or contact the Church Office.*

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