



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on December 17th 2023 at 4pm, meeting at Bethesda Chapel.**

Whilst some are able to meet in person, others we know are still at home. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

**Our Candle-lit Carol service today is being led by Alec**, and as the name suggests, the church is lit by lanterns and the Advent Wreath. It follows the traditional 9 Lessons and Carols pattern. Trevor is playing the piano for us today, together with Paul W, Kate and Judith, and they accompany all the carols.

**Alec begins with saying:**

“What’s this excitement all about?

It's really about an encounter with the living God and with Jesus Christ.

He is the one about whom we will be singing today and about whom we are hearing bible readings. We may not yet be finished with selecting and buying Christmas cards and presents. But this afternoon if we open our eyes and ears, hearts and minds we will be made clearly aware of the presence of God; by faith we will understand that the universe was formed at God`s command, that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Enjoy the atmosphere of candles and decorations. But look beyond what you can see to the reality of the presence of the living God. He is longing to speak to you.

He who made and who sustains the world; He whom you and I rejected to go our own way, choosing to remain in darkness rather than turn to and live in the light, He longs to speak to each one of us and to us all this afternoon.

As we begin this afternoon let us pray from our hearts thanking God for this opportunity to be together and to hear from Him.

Musicians and readers please bear in mind that there will be no spoken announcements of what we are about to sing or to read. Please follow the screen behind me. Please stand to sing if possible and please be seated for the readings. Thank you.”

The service then proceeds:

**Carol 1: Once in Royal David's City**

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 gentle mother in whose tender arms he lay:  
Christian children all should be kind, 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 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all 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

Authors: Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, Henry John Gauntlett CCLI Song # 197156, Words and music, Public domain, CCL No 5664

### **Bible reading 1: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 Judith**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

### **Carol 2:: O Holy Night**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!

O night divine! O night when Christ was born. O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger!  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend! Behold your King! Before him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and His gospel is Peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we; let all within us praise his Holy name!  
Christ is the Lord, (then ever! ever praise we!) (O praise his name forever)  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

Authors: Adolphe Charles Adam, John Sullivan Dwight, Placide Cappeau CCLI SONG # 32015 Words and music Public domain, CCL No 5664

### **Bible reading 2: Genesis 22: 15-18 Jean W**

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said,  
"I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not  
withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as  
numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take  
possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will  
be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

### **Carol 3: Joy to the world**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Authors: Isaac Watts, GF Handel, CCL Song 24016; Words and Music Public domain, CCL No 5664

### **Bible reading 3: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Jane**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
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.'

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

#### **Bible reading 4: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Tony**

Then a shoot shall grow from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall spring from his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord of the Lord shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and of  
understanding, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what he sees nor decide by what he hears, he shall judge the poor with  
justice and defend the humble in the land with equity.  
Then the wolf shall live with the sheep, and the leopard lie down with the kid; the calf and  
the young lion shall grow up together, and a little child shall lead them; the cow and the bear  
shall be friends, and their young shall lie down together. The lion shall eat straw like cattle;  
the infant shall play over the hole of the Cobra, and the young child dance over the viper's  
nest.  
They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy Mountain; for as the waters fill the sea, so shall  
the land be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

#### **Carol 4: Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, and all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Songwriters: Joseph Mohr / Franz Xaver Gruber CCLI SONG # 27862 Words and music Public domain, CCL. No 5664

#### **Bible reading 5: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Shirley**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town  
in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.  
The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly  
favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.  
But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will  
conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be  
called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father  
David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."  
"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.  
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### **Carol 5: Away in a manger**

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 You, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care  
and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Authors: John Thomas McFarland, Martin Luther, William James Kirkpatrick CCLI SONG # 322031 Word and Music: Public Domain, CCL No 5664

### **Bible reading 6: Luke 2:1-7 Janet**

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

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **Carol 6: While shepherds watched their flocks at night**

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," he said, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds;  
"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 heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
and 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 to the earth be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease.

Authors: George Kirbye, Nahum Tate CCLI SONG # 2088730 Words and music: Public Domain, CCL No 5664

## **Bible reading 7: Luke 2: 8-16 Brenda**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

### **Message: The King is coming!?**

What a wonderful atmosphere we are enjoying here this afternoon. Singing to the living God and listening to readings about His Son Jesus coming into the world in a creatively as well as safely and carefully prepared environment; against a background of the ever-longer dark days which we experience not just as fewer physical daylight hours but as darkness in the sense of the ever-increasing attacks on our hearts and lives in the world in which we live, a darkness which can so easily stunt or even silence our sense of the wonder of God seen so clearly in the world that he originally made and said was good.

With an appropriate and balanced sense of tradition we are reminding ourselves today of the greatness of God. So how good it is that we are still free in this country to share in this together, free from threats from without and from within. We are so glad and joyful to be together in experiencing not just the message but the truth of the reality of God here with us today. Hallelujah!

We do not need to apologise for talking about the living God and His Living Word. This book in my hands has 66 parts, 39 in what is called the Old Testament and 27 in what we call the New Testament. I hope you have an easily readable copy of this at home. Dig into it like you would attack a garden to clear out the weeds and the dirt and it will feed you like a vegetable garden and amaze you like a display of beautiful flowers. It will be fruitful and nourish you.

Taste and see that the Lord is good! This is our daily bread in a hungry world, a world longing for truth and life and peace; a world seeking for hope and a future, for meaning and purpose, but a world that doubts that these things are possible and is especially not just cautious and suspicious of what churches say and what they actually do, but is openly, directly and publicly loud in its criticism where there is all too frequently an awesome and growing gap between talk and walk, between what we say and what we do.

So as churches we need to apologise not just to the world, but to the Living God, asking Him for forgiveness for the way we lead our lives. This is an important step to take, a very good place to start.

When God created the world He made it out of chaos. He made it out of love. But we people made in the image of God suppress the truth about God and His created world. We so often just don't want to know. What may be known about God is plain to us all because God has made it plain to us all. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men and women are without excuse.

We live so often without God in the world He created and sustains through the might of His power. We go our own way; we have our own agendas, we live in our own little boxes which we may think are oh so clever and so safe although we know one day we will land up in a box that sadly fits us exactly.

The Bible says, "All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way." (Isaiah 53:6a NASB)

All of us have gone the wrong way and we have all fallen short of the glory of God. We have missed the target; we have failed to reach God's goal, that we reflect who He is, His Glory.

All that we think is good about us, even the best things we can and do do, these things are like dirty, filthy rags when God looks down on us and passes his assessment, his judgement on us.

Ignoring God we travel in the wrong direction in a one-way cul-de-sac, with darkness deepening and lengthening its shadows around us as we continue to live separated from our Maker.

The human race that God made to glorify Him has become cut off from Him, from each other, from its environment and we have been become cut off from ourselves. In these four dimensions we are completely lost without Him. Then we try to solve inter-personal problems, environmental problems and being disturbed within our own personalities, lives and being without reference to our Maker or to the Handbook. We have completely lost the plot if we leave God out of the script.

And that would be the end of the story. Sadly for millions of people that    the tragic end; a life on earth which leads to physical death. Millions have a life on earth which reflects, which mirrors of their own choice the sad truth of spiritual isolation from the living God and leads to eternal, to everlasting death; everlasting "life" without life and without hope.

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way.

But you see thank God that the script doesn't end there. That is not the end of the plot.

We read immediately following these words: "But the LORD has caused the wrongdoing of us all to fall on His only Son Jesus".

We are the lost sheep. But Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He is the One we need to follow and obey.

John 10: 7-11; 14-18

He is the Good Shepherd who says the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep; and that is exactly what Jesus Christ did, coming to earth and giving his life for us on a cross.

What Jesus says and what He does match up exactly with one another.

He is the One who knows, cares and can be trusted.

Who Jesus really is Colossians 1: 15-20, Philippians 2: 5-11

“Enjoying the joy and majesty of the festive season”  
films, sports, food

music, art, culture, entertainment,

But what about fixing our eyes on God in Jesus Christ? Jesus is the reason for the season.

Selecting, buying, writing and sending Christmas cards and choosing presents is even in an age of online purchasing opportunities a time-consuming, a thought-consuming and a costly business.

Advent calendars meaning anything but looking forward to celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ into the world are all over the place. Just buy and enjoy, fun and short-lived excitement; 24 different pictures, 24 different sweets, 24 different puzzles and then? 24 different videos of sports events maybe? 24 pictures of those who have left us in the last year?

“Taste and see that the Lord is good”

To whom have we given our allegiance? With whom are we connected? Whom are we following? Jesus Christ alone? Or have we added Jesus to a plethora of other so-called “gods” and we are backing all the horses in the race at the same time? The Bible makes it very clear. The only way to God is through His Son Jesus Christ. In John 14.6 Jesus say, “I am the Way the truth and the life; NO-ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

Or do we still want to hold on to other so-called “gods” and other things?

Psalms 115 other “gods”

Do we like “mix and match”?

Perhaps we don't like being tied down or tying ourselves down to one particular way of thinking and behaving?

A diverse lifestyle, a free-thinking approach,; some eastern thinking here and a bit of esoteric there and so on; nice and free, genuinely non-committal and without real cost to or loss of the control of our lives.

Do we like to pick and choose our ideas and thoughts about life and about truth, about our past, present and future and our thoughts about God?

But Jesus said, leave everything and follow me. Leave all these other ways of thinking and behaving and be my disciple. There is only one way to be forgiven our wrongs and to have peace and life and that is through Jesus Christ.

Material things, a “good” career, an important job or a particular role in the secular world or in a “church”

On what basis do we make our life decisions?

Mt. 6:33 everything you need will be given to you: at exactly the right time, at exactly the right place and exactly as you need it.

It's not basically, primarily, mainly and exclusively about what we have done for God eg coming to church, trying to be kind to family and neighbours or work colleagues, being generous with our gifts or whatever, though these attitudes and ways of thinking and behaving may be signs of a genuine faith but it is not about what we have done are doing or will do for God but about what He has done for us...



The problem is with our heart. We have hearts of stone; hard, proud, arrogant, self-seeking; God sets us free from wrong and gives us hearts that live and breathe, in which He lives through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God in us, the hope of glory, the hope of the glory that we have catastrophically and completely failed to demonstrate without Him because the glory belongs alone to the Living God.

The God who made the world comes into the world as a man like those He makes and sustains. Why? Because in His love and grace, mercy and compassion He knows the only way for men and women to be restored to Him is through His paying the penalty for the wrongs that we have done. You see God is just. The scenario, the rules, the background, the context is completely clear. The soul that sins dies. The death rate wherever and whenever is 1 per person.

Jesus comes as King into the world. He is the only King who became a baby. He is the only human being who never did wrong. He paid the price for our wrongs. And even if He had known that only one person would respond to his call and ask forgiveness He would have come into the world and died-for YOU. For any of us and for each of us.

So where are you and I this afternoon? Are we listening to what the living God is saying to us? Do we have ears to hear and hearts and minds fully open to listen to and obey Him?

It is not the presents we buy and give or which we receive that I am really talking about, though these are real enough. I am talking about God's presence. Knowing the presence of God 24/7 is something very, very special. May each one of us know the presence of God with us each day and each night until the King comes again and takes us to the homes that He is preparing for us in heaven.

Let us finally not forget what it cost the Son of God to come to earth as a baby and give his life for us. But let us also not forget that following Him, becoming and remaining His followers and disciples will cost us our all as well. For if we want to share in His glory we must also share in His sufferings.

### **Carol 7: O come, O come, Immanuel**

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in your ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice!...**

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

**Rejoice! Rejoice!...**

O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode.

**Rejoice! Rejoice!...**

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light. **Rejoice! Rejoice!...**

Translated from Latin by JM Neale, music T Helmore CCLI SONG # 31982 words and music Public Domain CCL No 5664

## **Bible reading 8: Matthew 2: 1-12 Paul W, reading from The Message.**

### **Herod is in a tiz!**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signalled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

### **Carol 8: O come all ye faithful**

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.

**O come, let us adore Him...**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, All glory in the highest.

**O come, let us adore Him....**

(Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning Jesus, to Thee be glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

**O come, let us adore Him...)**

Authors: C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade CCLI SONG # 31054 Words and music Public domain CCL no 5664

## **Bible reading 9: John 1: 1-14 Carol**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. 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 all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling 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.

## **Closing Carol 9: Hark the herald angels sing**

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 host 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 a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Authors: Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy CCLI SONG # 27738 Words and music: Public Domain CCL no 5664

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.