

Carol Medley (we will sing the first verse of each carol listed below)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. Composite; MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988; Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver)

“O Little town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, now 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 tonight.

(TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868; MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868)

Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Carol

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 in the hay.

(TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, Little Children’s Book for Schools and families, c. 1885; stanza 3, Gabriel’s Vineyard Songs, 1892; MUSIC: James r. Murray, 1887)

Children’s Moment

Special Music

“What Child Is This”
String Simplicity

Traditional English Melody

Reading

Luke 2:8-16

Carol

“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, off-spring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

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 we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

(TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; MUSIC: Felix Mendelsohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855)

Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Carol Medley (we will sing the first verse of each carol listed below)

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

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 all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

(TEXT: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt., MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850)

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*(Refrain) Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

(TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940; MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987; Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him vow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

(TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.; MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Message

Pastor John

Carol

“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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and folds, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

(TEXT: James Montgomery, 1821, alt., MUSIC: Thomas Tertuis Noble, 1938; Music 9Co 1941 United Church Press (admin. The Pilgrim Press))

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Gracious God, on this magical night, we confess that we have often missed the majesty and glory of your birth. We wrap the season in all kinds of activities and expectations, and sometimes we miss the simple meaning of the Christmas miracle: You love us. You came to us. You pursued us. We are humbled by your great love. Forgive us for focusing on ourselves and failing to worship you. Help us to see the miracle of your love and mercy, and help us to share that love and mercy with all people. Give us the courage and strength to yield to your grace, and grant us the desire and will to live for you each day. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Distribution of the Elements

Special Music

"Emmanuel, God with Us"

by Amy Grant,
Chris Eaton, Robert Marshall

A Music Ministry Collaboration

Celebrating the Light

Carol

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, 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,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior 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.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia
to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born

(TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 103, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, atl.;
MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818, Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea)

Benediction

Postlude

"How Great Our Joy!"

traditional German Carol
Arr. Carol Tornquist

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