

**St Nicholas
Church,
Sighthill
Children's
Nativity Service**



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

CCLI Song # 31078
Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis

Welcome and Call to worship

Lighting the third advent Candle of joy

The light from this candle, emitting great Joy, bring thoughts of our Saviour who comes as a boy. So let us be joyful, while singing his praise, and welcome his coming then follow his way. Light of darkness, Joy is to come, for God will send his Son. Joy everlasting when He shall come down, the long awaited One.

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light this candle in hope (light the first candle). We light this candle for peace (light the second candle). We light this candle in joy (light the third candle) remembering the promises of God with prayer. Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home.

Carol: It came upon the midnight clear

1. 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 men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing
2. And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong

Poem: The Love of God surrounds us

Carol: While humble shepherds

1. While humble shepherds watched their flocks
On Bethlehem's plain by night,
An angel sent from heaven appeared,
And filled the plains with light.
"Fear not," he said, for sudden dread
Had seized their troubled mind:
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

2. "To you in David's town, this night
Is born, of David's line,
The Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
And meanly wrapt in swaddling band,
And in a manger laid."

3. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appear'd a shining throng
Of Angels, praising God, and there
Addressed their joyful song;
All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will is shown by heaven to men,
And never more shall cease.

Charles L. Hutchins, Carols Old and Carols New (Boston: Parish Choir, 1916)

Prayer:

Carol: Once in Royal David's city

1. 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

2. 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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

3. 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 has gone

CCLI Song # 197156
Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander | Henry John Gauntlett

Reading: Walk with God (Leviticus 26:12)

Carol: O Holy Night

1. O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till 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

O hear the angel voices

O night divine

O night when Christ was born

O night O holy night

O night divine

2. 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 came 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 weakness is no stranger

Behold your King

Before Him lowly bend

Behold your King

Before Him lowly bend

3. 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

O praise His name forever

His power and glory

Evermore proclaim

His power and glory

Evermore proclaim

Address: Walk my way

Carol: Still the night

1. Still the night holy the night
Sleeps the world hid from sight
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
Watch o'er the child beloved and fair
Sleeping in heavenly rest

2. Still the night holy the night
Shepherds first saw the light
Heard resounding clear and long
Far and near the angel-song
Christ the Redeemer is here

3. Still the night holy the night
Son of God O how bright
Love is smiling from Thy face
Strikes for us now the hour of grace
Saviour since Thou art born

CCLI Song # 3280276
Joseph Mohr | Stopford Augustus Brooke

Prayer for others

Here is our promise to you, O God,
our promise of love in this gift
to give ourselves over and over
to the reshaping and the redemption of this
world.

May what we lay here be gifts for the kingdom
that transform into justice and grace and peace.

Loving God, in this Advent,
may we live in the promise of a desert coming into
bloom. Where the dry land of our politics

regrows a politics of hope that speaks into the lives of the least, that deserts of hopelessness and powerlessness are broken open in a field of new life,

of community that seeks the best for one another.

So may the weakest of hands find new strength, those on their knees, a new confidence, those who fear for life, a new empowerment, to live more strongly, to live without fear and seek a world, and a community that makes it possible.

So may we live compassionately believing the eyes of the blind shall be opened and speak justly that the ears of the deaf may hear and the lame leap with new hope in life and those who have been silenced speak nonstop about justice; so that waters of peace pour into the driest lands and the heat of the world cools in a new way of living together.

May we seek to build a highway that moves us and leads us from conflict to peace, from selfishness to compassion for one another, from power to sharing.

May we walk it, be companions along it, share the journey and find you there: one of us, among us, Emmanuel – God with us So be it. Amen.

Carol: As with gladness men of old – 3 verses

1. 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

2. 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 heav'nly King

3. In the heav'nly 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

Benediction

**May God the Father bless us;
may Christ take care of us;
the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days of our life.
The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and
soul, both now and for ever, to the ages of ages.**

And may the grace... Amen.

