

Holy Trinity Church West Runton



Christmas Eve Crib Service

Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Carol: Little Donkey

1. Little donkey, little donkey,
On the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards
with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey,
through the winter's night;
don't give up now little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

*Follow that star tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

*Little donkey, little donkey,
had a heavy day.*

*Little donkey,
carry Mary safely on her way.*

2. Little donkey, little donkey,
On the dusty road,
there are wise men, waiting for a
sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey,
there's a star ahead;
it will guide you, little donkey,
to a cattle shed. *(Chorus)*

Opening Prayer

Reading Luke 1.26-33; 2.1-5

(The Angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will have a baby and the Emperor Augustus orders everyone to return to their home town.)

- Mary and Joseph, and the Donkey are brought to the stable.

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, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
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.

Reading: Luke 2.6-7

(Mary gives birth to Jesus and he is laid in a bed of hay).

- The manger and the Infant Jesus are brought to the stable.

Carol: Silent Night

1. 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.
2. 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.

Reading: Luke 2.8-14

(The Shepherds are told the Good News.)

- The Shepherds are brought to the stable.

Carol: While Shepherds watched their flocks.

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be to God on high
and on earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to me
begin and never cease."

Reading: Matthew 2.1-3; 8-11

(The Three Wise Men come to see Jesus).

- The Three Wise Men are brought to the stable.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem.

1. 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 tonight.

2. 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.
3. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

The Blessing of the Crib

The Advent ring and other candles are lit

Candlelit Carol: Away in a manger.

1. 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 on the hay.
2. 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.

3. 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.

The Prayers and The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from Evil,
For thine is the Kingdom
The power and the Glory
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Carol: 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.*

1. While shepherds kept their watching
over silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angels chorus
that hailed the Saviour's birth. *Refrain*

3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

The Blessing

Carol: Hark! The herald angels sing

1. 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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.
2. 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 new-born King.