

St. Augustine's Carol Service 12 December 2004

Welcome !

Please stand for the Carol.

1. 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 :

Chorus

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

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

Chorus

3. Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation !
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above !
Glory to God
In the highest :

Chorus

Please sit for all the Christmas story but do join in singing the carols.

In John Chapter 3 verse 16 we are told that :

God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

now –

Let us also think about how we should respond to God's gift of Jesus.

THEN –

The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary.

Luke Chapter 1 verses 26 - 38 (Page 1123 in the pew Bibles).

Mary says :

All

My gift to God is my *WILLINGNESS* to serve Him.

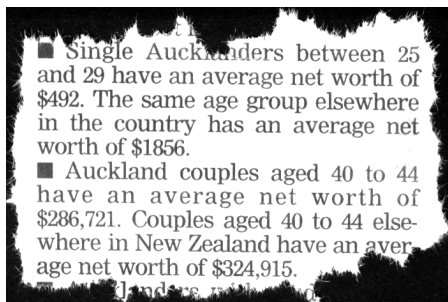
Help us to be Your willing servants too.

Please remain seated for the DUET

1. The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria !
2. 'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria !
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name' :
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria !

now -

We can give
our money



(NZ Herald, November 23, page A2)

THEN -

Joseph's Dream
Matthew Chapter 1 verses 18 -25 (Page 1048)

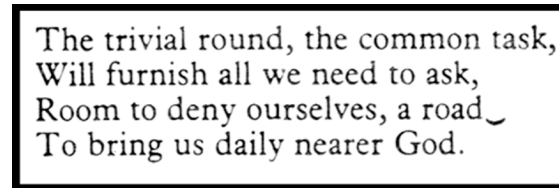
Joseph says My gift to God is my OBEDIENCE to Him.
All Help us to be Your obedient servants too.

Please join in the 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 street shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the
years
Are met in thee tonight.
 2. For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the
King,
And peace to men on earth.
 3. 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.

now -

We
can
give
our
skills



(Hymns Ancient and Modern, 4, verse 4.)

THEN -

Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem.
Luke Chapter 2 verses 1, 3 - 7 (Page 1125)

The inn-keeper says My gift to God is COMPASSION.
All Help us to be compassionate people too.

Please join in the carol

Away in a manger

1. 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.
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 forever, and love me I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

now –

We can give our pastoral ministry

Ask yourself, If I were sure that I loved God, what would I do? When you have found the answer, go and do it.

(C.S. Lewis : "Mere Christianity")

THEN –

The angels tell the shepherds of the birth of Jesus
Luke Chapter 2 verses 8 - 20 (Page 1125)

The shepherds say

Our gift to God is **TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**

All

Help us to be people who tell others about Jesus too.

Please join in the carol

Angels, from the realms of glory

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight oer all the earth;
You who sang creations story,
Now proclaim Messiahs birth :

Chorus

*Come and worship Christ the new-born King
Come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King*

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching oer your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light :

Chorus

now –

We can give our love

Whoever is moved by true and perfect love is never self-seeking, but desires only that God's glory may be served in all things.

(Thomas à Kempis)

THEN –

The wise men come looking for Jesus
Matthew 2 verses 1 - 2, 11 - 12 (Page 1048)

The Wise Men say

Our gift to God is **WORSHIP.**

All

Help us to worship You too.

Please stand for the carol

Chorus :
Rejoice, rejoice, for Jesus
Is come to be our King;
With joyful praise and worship
We bring our offering.

1. In ancient times, the Wise
Men
Brought gold and spices rare
To offer to the Christ Child,
God's gift beyond compare.
(Chorus)

Please sit.

ALWAYS - Love
comes
first

27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself."²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

(Luke 10)

Please remain seated for the message

Please stand for the hymn

1. Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands, and let them
move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Rejoice, rejoice
2. Now we in turn bring our
gifts,
But what gift can we bring ?
What can we give to please
Him,
The Lord of everything ?
(Chorus)
3. He wants our willing service,
Obedience, love, and praise;
He wants us to proclaim how
He cares for us always.
(Chorus)

Take my life
3. Take my voice, and let me
sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from
Thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt
choose.

5. Take my will, and make it
Thine;
It shall be no longer mine:
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I
pour
At Thy feet its treasure store:
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all, for Thee

A time of offering
This is an opportunity for you to offer your gifts to God.
If you'd like to do so, you might write your offer on the paper in your order of service and place it in the basket on the candle table, or light a candle, or do both.
The organist will quietly play the hymn again, while those who wish to make an offering do so.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers.

Thank You for the wonderful gift of Your Son Jesus which we celebrate each year at Christmas time. May this be a time of love, peace and rejoicing in our families and our community and throughout the world. **Amen**
We ask You, Lord God, to reveal to us the way we can use our gifts and talents to serve You today, tomorrow and every day. **Amen**

We pray for the lonely, the estranged and the sick at this time, asking for Your love and forgiveness to surround them and bring them peace. **Amen**

Together we sing 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.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen**

Please stand for the final carol

Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world ! – the Lord
is come !

Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him
room,

And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and
nature sing.

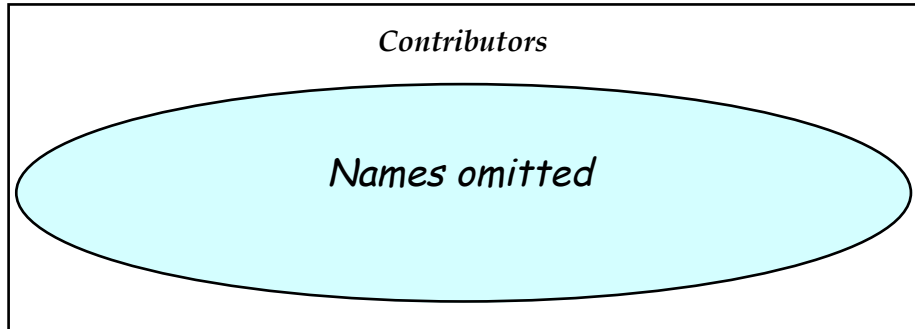
2. Joy to the world ! – the
Saviour reigns !

Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains,

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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, and wonders of His love.

Blessing



Our next Family Service is the **Christingle Service** on 24th December at 7pm.
DO JOIN US THEN. Anyone who would like to take part please see [.....](#)
afterwards or phone [.....](#).

Our first family service next year will be on Easter Sunday March 27th 10am.
Everyone is welcome.

Kids' Club resumes on Tuesday 1st March at 3:15pm; all Primary School
children are welcome.