



Crib Service



24th December 2023, 4pm
St John's Kidlington

WELCOME

We light the Advent Candles and then sing (to the tune Glenfinlas (AMNS278):

**Come and light the candles on the Advent ring,
Scattering the darkness till the world shall sing.**

**We are all God's people, waiting in this place
Hoping that in Jesus we shall see God's face.**

**Prophet voices speaking clear, like a burning flame,
Making sure our world will never be the same.**

**John the Baptist telling us God wants to forgive,
Calling us to change the way we work and live.**

**Mary, full of courage, echoing God's yes,
Going on the journey God will greatly bless.**

**Jesus in the midst of us, filling us with joy,
Giving us the life which nothing can destroy.**



The Posada is brought forward as we pray together:

**Bright star-maker God,
may the light of the Advent candle and these Nativity
travellers be a sign of your promise to be with us throughout
our lives as a guide on our own journey.**

**God of Mary and Joseph,
may the Nativity scene tell us the story of finding Christ in all
places. Fill our homes with hospitality and joy, gentleness and
thanksgiving. Guide our steps in the way of peace.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.**

STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY

Introduction



Opening Prayer

Creator God,

Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus,
who came to us as a baby on the first Christmas Day.

Be with us now as we hear his story,
as we celebrate his birth in the coming days.

Amen.

STATION 1: THE JOURNEY TO A STABLE

Introduction, getting the stable ready

Song - Little Donkey

**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.

**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.**

Ring out those bells tonight...

Eric Boswell © 1959 Warner/Chappell Must, Ltd

Prayer

God who journeys with us,
as we get ready for Christmas
help us to remember Mary and Joseph
getting ready for their journey to Bethlehem on a donkey
and getting ready for the birth of Jesus in a stable.

Amen.

STATION 2: A BABY IS BORN

Introduction, with Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable

Song - See him lying on a bed of straw

**See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the prince of glory is his name.**

***O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.***



**Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!**

O now carry me...

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.**

O now carry me...

**Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.**

O now carry me...

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996); © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

Prayer

God, the source of all gifts,
as we look forward to receiving presents at Christmas,
help us to remember the special gift of baby Jesus,
who brings hope to everyone.

Amen.

STATION 3: POOR SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS

Introduction, the shepherds come to the stable

Song - While shepherds watched their flocks

**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,' said he, (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'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
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all 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;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'**



Prayer

God who continues to delight and surprise us,
when we have surprises at Christmas,
help us to remember the shepherds
who were surprised to hear the angels singing
and find the baby Jesus in a stable.

Amen.

STATION 4: RICH KINGS VISIT JESUS

Introduction, the kings come to the stable

Song – We Three Kings



**We Three Kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder Star.**

***O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.***

**Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King for ever, Ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
*O Star of Wonder, ...***

**Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising All men raising,
Worship Him God on High.
*O Star of Wonder, ...***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
*O Star of Wonder, ...***

**Glorious now behold Him arise,
King, and God, and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:
Hallelujah the earth replies.
*O Star of Wonder, ...***

Prayer

God with us,
when we visit family and friends at Christmas,
help us to remember the wise men
who travelled such a long way to visit the baby Jesus
Amen.

STATION 5: WAYS OF REMEMBERING

Introduction, reflection on the special gift of Jesus in our lives

Prayer

Baby Jesus,
may our hearts be ready
to receive the special gift of your love this Christmas,
and then may we be ready to share that special gift
with the people we meet day by day
May we know the blessing of your hope
and your love in our lives and in our world
this Christmas and always.
Amen.

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 who 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.

Song - 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 in the highest:
 *O come, let us adore Him...***

Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

*We wish you all, your family, and friends, a very peaceful Christmas
and a happy New Year.*

*You are very welcome to join us here at 11.30pm tonight for
Midnight Mass. On Christmas Day there will be services of Holy
Communion at 10am in both St Mary's Kidlington and St Mary's
Hampton Poyle.*