

Joy to the world! The Lord has 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 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!

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, and wonders of his love!



A Christmas Eve Service Of Lessons and Carols

December 24th, 2009

9:00 PM

New Utrecht Reformed Church

18th Ave at 84th Street

718-236-0678

THE FIRST ANNOUNCER: Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined!
For unto us a child is born, a son is given;
And his name is Wonder Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David,
and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from
this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the lord of hosts will do this.

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!

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, o come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

THE SECOND ANNOUNCER: Micah 5: 2 -5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrata, who are least among the clans of Judah
From you shall come forth for us one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days...and he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the
majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth and there shall be peace.

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet and while shepherd's watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King who shepherds guard and angels sing! Haste, haste to bring
him laud, the babe the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear, for
sinners here, the silent Word is pleading....Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross
be borne for me, for you, Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE THIRD ANNOUNCER: Luke 2: 1 - 7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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.

O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God the king and peace to men on earth
for Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondrous love.

O holy child of Bethlehem descend on us today
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.
Come to us, abide with us, Lord Emmanuel

THE FOURTH ANNOUNCER: Luke 2: 8 - 14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord! This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:
Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace among those who God favors!"

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!"

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 throne on high, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn king!"

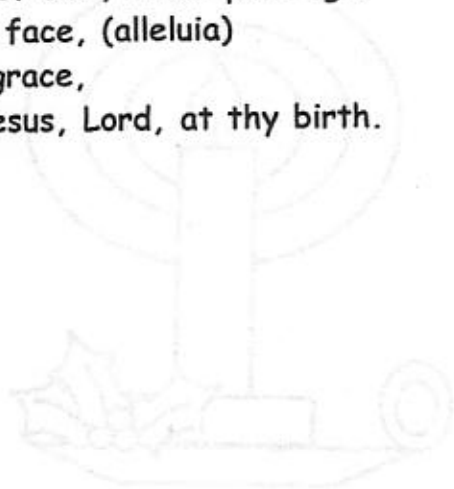
THE FIFTH ANNOUNCER: Luke 2: 15 - 19

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place; which the Lord has made know to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they told everybody about the child, and all who heard it were amazed. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

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 form heaven a far,
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, (alleluia)
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



You are Holy, **YOU COME TO US IN THE MUCK AND MIRE OF OUR WORLD,
IN THE DUST AND DIRT OF OUR LIVES AS A PURE AND INNOCENT ONE,**
So that we may find in the messiness of our lives
holy meaning and blessing and a reason to live pure lives:
LORD HAVE MERCY.

You are Strong, **YOU COME TO US WEAK AND INNOCENT AS A LITTLE BABY,**
So that we may say strength in the small things around us and the little ones among us:
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

You are everlasting life,
YOU PUT ON A BODY THAT WILL SUFFER AND DIE, LIKE WE WILL,
So that we may find in our suffering and dying the fullness of life, like you are:
LORD HAVE MERCY.

**DEAR GOD, WE COME TO YOU IN THE COLD AND DARK OF THIS NIGHT. WE SEEK
YOUR WARMTH AND LIGHT --- A LIGHT THAT SHINES FROM**

**THE STAR OF THE EAST, A LIGHT THAT DWELLS WITHIN US. LIKE THE ANIMALS
WHO GATHERED AT THE STABLE OF YOUR BIRTH, HOLD US CLOSE, WARM US IN
YOUR LOVE, BATHE US IN YOUR LIGHT. STILL OUR MINDS THAT WE MIGHT HEAR
THE VOICE OF YOUR ANGELS. WARM OUR HANDS THAT WE MAY FEEL THE TOUCH
OF A STRANGER.**

**OPEN OUR EYES THAT WE MAY SEE THE WOUNDED, THE WEARY, THE HOMELESS
AND HUNGRY, THE POOR AND OPPRESSED AND THAT WE MAY EMBRACE THEM IN
BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.. OPEN OUR HEARTS THAT WE MAY RESPOND IN MERCY
AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE PEOPLE WHO HUDDLE OUTSIDE OF STABLES AND
SUBWAYS, MANGERS AND SHOPPING MALLS, SHEPHERDS' FIELDS AND CITY
STREETS. FOR IN THEIR FACES O LORD, YOU ARE BORN AGAIN THIS NIGHT.
AMEN.**

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING and CLOSING HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD!"

