

'Good Tidings of Great Joy'



**A Christmas Nativity Celebration
for use in Residential Homes**

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O come let us adore Him....

Yea Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore Him....

Blessing:

The joy of the angels,
the wonder of the shepherds,
and the peace of the Christ Child,
fill your hearts this Christmas time;
and may the blessing of God the Father,
God the Son, and
God the Holy Spirit,
be with you now
and in the years to come.

Amen

Welcome to our Christmas Celebration

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

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 wondering love.



**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.**

**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.**



Carol:

**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**



**Solo: Light of the world you stepped
down into darkness**

*(Ask someone to sing this Solo for you, and
encourage residents to look at the light from
their candles and remember Jesus, the light
of the world)*

Say together:

Jesus is born; Jesus has come. Jesus is our
salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, we greet Your birth with wide-eyed
delight. You are precious beyond words,
and our world needs Your presence, and we
need Your presence.

You are God's gift, His greatest gift, silently
delivered to every human heart. Amen.

Sing together: O come all ye faithful



Bible Reading: Isaiah 9:6 NIV
(Ask the Angel to read the Bible passage)

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is
given, and the government will be upon His
shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful
Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Carol:

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin and her child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Allelulia!
Christ the saviour is born
Christ the saviour is born.**



**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, Love's pure light;
Radiant beams thy holy face
With the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

Bible Reading:

There were shepherds living out in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified.

Angel:

Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of Bethlehem a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.



First candle is the candle of HOPE because Jesus is our hope.

The second candle is the candle of PEACE because - Jesus is our peace.

The third candle is the candle of JOY because Jesus brings joy.

The fourth candle is the candle of LOVE, because - Jesus is love.

(Leader lights the centre candle and says)

This is the CHRIST candle.

This candle represents Jesus - the light of the world. We receive His light and share His light with each other.

(Leader, please ask Team members to distribute Candles and holders to residents, then after they light their candles from the Christ candle to share their light with the resident's candles)



We hear how the angels sang over the Bethlehem hills: 'Glory to God; Peace for the world.'

Jesus has come. Thank you Father.

We hear how the shepherds hurried to see if what the angels had told them was true.

Jesus has come. Thank you Father.

We hear how the wise men came to bring their worship and their precious gifts.

Jesus has come. Thank you Father.

Leader: In our churches each Sunday in December before Christmas day, we remember Christ's coming and light one of four candles of Advent. Today we will light all four candles.

(Ask 4 team members to light a candle and say the appropriate words below)



Carol:

**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
swaddling 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;
Goodwill henceforth
from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.**

Bible reading:

When the angel had left them and gone to heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

Shepherds: *(say together)*

Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

Narrator:

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they had seen Him, they



**Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We are going to pray together a Prayer of Thanksgiving. At the end of each section I will say Jesus has come, and I would like you to join me in praying, Thank You Father.

Let's pray: *God our Father, we listen again to the story of Christmas, and we are glad that Jesus has come to be our Saviour and our friend. We have heard how Mary laid her baby in a manger.*

Jesus has come. Thank you Father.



Carol:

**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.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed:
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee our heavenly King.**



spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Narrator:

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Carol:

**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.**



**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.**

**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.**

Bible Reading:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is He who has been born king of the



Jews? We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. He found out from them the exact time the star had appeared and sent them to Bethlehem to make a careful search for the child. 'As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship him.

They went on their way, the star going ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed when they saw the child with his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped him.

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.