

ONCE IN A MANGER

ADVENT SERVICE THROUGH
POEMS AND CAROLS



P: Opening Prayer

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid. Reginald Heber, 1811

Opening Hymn

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,
Glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,

Born this happy morning Jesus, to Thee be
All glory given! Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing
Songwriter: Paul Bateman

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.***

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 1Kgs 19:1-21

Lesson 2 Rev 10:1-11

Advent

L: The First Christmas

It would have gone unnoticed
in that sleepy little town;
a couple in a stable,
cows and donkeys all around.

A single candle flickered.
In the orange glow of its flame,
an anguished cry, a soothing touch.
Things would never be the same.

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They rested there exhausted,
husband, wife and newborn son.

History's greatest mystery
had only just begun.

And on a hillside outside town,
rough men with sheep sat by a fire,
startled from their sleepy gossip
by a great angelic choir.

**C: Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

L: In awe they dropped their staffs,
What was this wondrous thing?
That angels would proclaim to them
heaven's newborn king.

They journeyed into Bethlehem.
The angels led them down.
They told them where to find him
in the sleepy little town.

They saw a tiny baby
wiggling gently on the hay.
They fell upon their faces;
there was nothing they could say.

Tears trickled down their wind burned cheeks,
their doubts had finally passed.
The proof lay in a manger:
Messiah, come at last!

By Jack Zavada

<https://www.thoughtco.com/very-first-christmas-day-poem-700483>

**C: While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around
And glory shone around**

**"Fear not," he said,
For mighty dread**

**Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind."**

**"To you in David's
Town this day
Is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign
And this shall be the sign."**

**"The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped
In swathing bands
And in a manger laid
And in a manger laid."**

L: As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger 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.
William C. Dix, 1867

**C: 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**

**Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia**

Earth to heav'n replies

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. in 185

L: Once in a Manger

Once in a manger, a long time ago,
Before there was Santa and reindeer and snow,
A star shone down on humble beginnings below
Of a baby just born who the world would soon know.

**C: 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.**

**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 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.**

attributed to John Thomas McFarland, 1906

L: Never before had there been such a sight.
Would the Son of a King have to suffer this plight?
Aren't there armies to lead? Aren't there battles to fight?
Shouldn't He conquer the world and demand His birthright?

**C: What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

L: No, this frail little infant asleep in the hay
Would change the whole world with the words He would say.
Not about power or demanding His way,
But mercy and loving and forgiving, God's way.

For only through humbleness would the battle be won
As shown by the actions of God's only true son.
Who gave up His life for the sins of everyone,
Who saved the whole world when His journey was done.

**C: 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!**

L: Many years have now passed since that night long ago
And now we have Santa and reindeer and snow
But down in our hearts the true meaning we know,
It is the birth of that child that makes Christmas so.
--Submitted by Tom Krause

**C: So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own him:
The King of kings, salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, Raise the song on high,
The Virgin sings a lullaby.
Joy, Joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

William Chatterton, 1865

(Cong. to stand)

Prayer of Confession

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

P: When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
C: Have mercy on us, Father.

P: When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing
and hearing and touching the needs of others,
C: Let your grace consume us, O God.

P: When the wars around us are of no concern,
**C: Forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion
for those who suffer.**

P: When our caring is not extended to action,
**C: Move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.
We come to confess our sinfulness
before you and before each other.
Remove all barriers that divide us,
and let there be no obstacle to our love for you
and for one another. Amen.**

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Luke 1:57-66

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times once gave the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.

(Author: unknown; Translated into English by: John Mason Neale in 1851)

Offertory

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!"

Christ by highest heav'n 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 newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
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!"

Written by Charles Wesley, Music: Felix Mendelssohn

MESSAGE

(Cong. to stand)

Closing Prayer

P: Once upon a Christmastime
The angels sang with joy,
To herald the coming

Of a precious Baby Boy.

C: Their shouting filled the heavens
And shook the mighty earth,
And sent the shepherds searching
For the place of His glorious birth.

And when they found the manger
And gazed upon His face,
They knelt in adoration
In that low and holy place.

Oh, Father, fill me with the love
That filled the earth that night,
A love that reaches throughout the world,
And fills it with your light. Dona M. Maroney

P: Benediction

Cradled in a manger, meanly,
Laid the Son of Man His head;
Sleeping His first earthly slumber
Where the oxen had been fed.
Happy were those shepherds listening
To the holy angel's word;
Happy they within that stable
Worshipping their infant Lord.

Happy all who hear the message
Of His coming from above;
Happier still who hail His coming,
And with praises greet His love.
Blessèd Saviour, Christ most holy,
In a manger Thou didst rest;
Canst Thou stoop again, yet lower,
And abide within my breast?

And may the love of the Creator
The joy of the Spirit
And the peace of the Christ-child
Be with you this Christmas, and evermore
Amen.

Benediction- George S. Rowe, 1879

Closing Hymn and Kiss of Peace

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light.

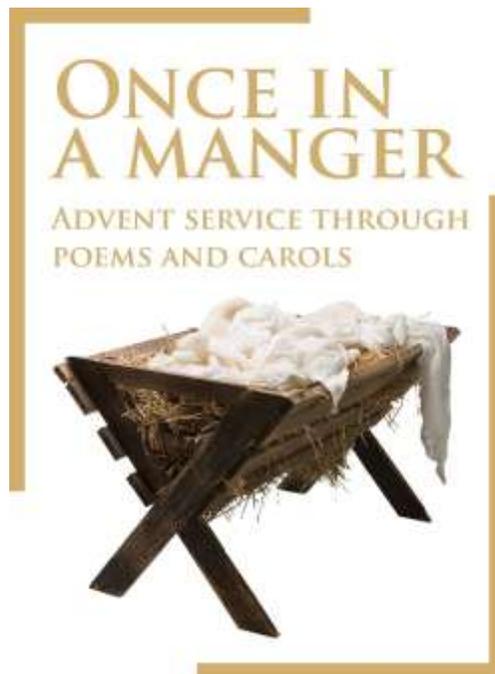
Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

John Wesley Work, Jr., 1907
Based on an African-American Spiritual, early 1800s

<https://www.thoughtco.com/christmas-manger-poems-700484>

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!”

— Neal A. Maxwell



Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- December 2018