



Children's Christmas Service
December 24, 2021
5:00pm

The people's responses are in bold.

CAROL PRELUDE

Sung by all, remaining seated.

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

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.

The first Nowell

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight,
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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

All stand as able to sing the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

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 heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, whose Son was born for all the world as a child in Bethlehem, we praise you for the shepherds in the fields, who with the animals and the angels greeted the Word made flesh with wonder and joy. Through the telling of the Christmas story, may we join with the shepherds and angels in singing and praising the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The priest reads the Christmas story. At various points during the reading, the people are encouraged to participate by singing the hymns printed below at the direction of the Minister of Music.

Away in a manger

Cradle Song

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.

Angels we have heard on high (refrain)

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Go, tell it on the mountain

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

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

Go, tell it the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

We three kings

Three Kings of Orient

We thee 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!

Silent night

Stille Nacht

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.

CHRISTMAS GREETING AND OFFERTORY

The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion. An offering is received to support Ascension's ministry of sharing God's love with the world.

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OFFERTORY HYMN

O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

All stand as able. The Priest gives thanks for the bread and wine and provides instructions to the people for receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you did not receive a communion kit prior to the worship service, you may obtain one by speaking with a member of the welcome team. After receiving communion, everyone prays the following prayer together.

PRAYER

Lord, by the song of the angels you disclosed your birth to your own people, and by the leading of a star, you revealed your glory to strangers. Teach us to know you now, and to make you known to all. Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Joy to the world!

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is 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 world! The Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to proclaim Jesus' birth!
People **Glory, thanks, and praise to God!**

Permissions: The lyrics of all carols and hymns are from the Hymnal 1982.
Service Participants: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo, Rector and Andrew Kullberg, Minister of Music