

# Crib Service



## Gathering

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;  
**Jesus is our King.**

<A candle is lit>

Jesus Christ is the light of the world; **Jesus is our Way.**  
With Jesus even dark places are light; **Jesus is the Truth.**  
In Jesus we shall live for ever: **Jesus is our Life.**

## Song

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From heaven's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angels' strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever circling years  
Shall come the age of gold;  
When Peace shall over all the earth,  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song,  
Which now the angels sing.

Richard Storrs Willis

## *Reading*

Luke 2: 1 - 7

## *Saying Sorry*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our faults.

You were born for our salvation:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## *Reading*

Luke 2: 8 - 16

## *Song*

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," he said, (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  
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
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."

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!"            Nahum Tate and Nicholas Brady

## *Setting up the Crib*

### *Song*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus, Lay 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.

Faith Hill

## Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus Christ our Lord, for he was the Word before all creation.

Through him all things come to be; not one thing has its being but through him.

Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

His life is the light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness cannot overpower.

Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

He came to his own, and they did not accept him.

But to all who accept, he gives power to become children of God.

Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus, light of the world, **we worship and adore you.**

To God our creator, born as one of us, be all praise and glory.

With all the company of heaven, we worship you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Song

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 from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.      John Young

## *Prayers*

For the occasion

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we  
forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but  
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## *Reading*

Matthew 2: 1 - 11

## *Song*

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom, cherubim worship night and day, A  
breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay:  
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only his mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

### *Parting*

Son of Mary, Son of God,  
we have joined the worship of the angels;  
**may we never lose that heavenly vision.**  
Like the shepherds,  
we have rejoiced at the news of your birth;  
**help us to proclaim that message in word and deed,  
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

