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| **CHRISTMAS DAY** |
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**CAROL**

**I saw three ships come sailing in**  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?  
And what was in those ships all three,  
on Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
our Saviour Christ and his lady,   
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
pray, wither sailed those ships all three,  
on Christmas Day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
and all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
and all the souls on earth shall sing,  
on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice again,  
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
then let us all rejoice again,  
on Christmas Day in the morning.

**WELCOME**I bring you good news of great joy.   
A Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia!

**To us a child is born, a son is given. Alleluia!**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES IN THE ADVENT WREATH**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**  
Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
‘You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the whole world.

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

May Almighty God   
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,   
bring you his pardon and peace,   
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**The Lamb – words: *William Blake*; music: *John Tavener***

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,   
Making all the vales rejoice?  
Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb.  
He is meek, and he is mild,  
He became a little child.  
I, a child, and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

**READINGS** – read by Lucinda Howard

***Isaiah 9.2, 6-7***

**2** The people walking in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 on those living in the land of deep darkness  
 a light has dawned.

**6** For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given,  
 and the government will be on his shoulders.  
 And he will be called  
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
**7** Of the greatness of his government and peace  
 there will be no end.  
 He will reign on David’s throne  
 and over his kingdom,  
 establishing and upholding it  
 with justice and righteousness  
 from that time on and for ever.

***Luke 2.1-14***

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2**(This was the first census that took place whileQuirinius was governor of Syria.) **3**And everyone went to their own town to register.

**4**So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5**He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6**While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7**and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**8**And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9**An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11**Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12**This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’  
**13**Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
**14** ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’

**ANTHEM**

**In the Bleak Mid-Winter – words: *Christina Rosetti*; music: *Harold Darke***

In the bleak midwinter   
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 midwinter, 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 midwinter   
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.

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.

**SERMON** – Simon Taylor

**PRAYERS** – led by Peter Green

*During the prayers, this response will be used*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**COLLECT**

God the Father,

help us to hear the call of Christ the King

and to follow in his service,

whose kingdom has no end;

for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, one glory.

**Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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:

Sing, choirs of angels,   
sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,

now in flesh appearing:

**BLESSING**

May the joy of the angels,   
the wonder of the shepherds   
and the peace of the Christ child   
fill your hearts this Christmas time;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,   
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit   
be among you and remain with you always.   
**Amen.**