

PROLOGUE

"BETHLEHEM JOURNEY"

1 **BRIDGET:** In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Arlington First
2 Church of the Nazarene, I welcome you to this year's Christmas pageant.
3 Let us pray: ***"Our Lord and God, let us tell your story faithfully and hear it***
4 ***joyfully, in Jesus' name, Amen."***
5 Ladies and Gentlemen, I think you're going to really enjoy the . .
6 **EVA:** *(Interrupting)* Excuse me, but . . .
7 **BRIDGET:** . . .pageant . . *(Somewhat irritated.)* Is something *wrong*?
8 **EVA:** There's a little problem.
9 **BRIDGET:** Well, if it's a *little* problem, then *you* can fix it.
10 **EVA:** OK, maybe it's *not* so little.
11 **BRIDGET:** Look, We're just about to start the pageant. We have everyone in position and
12 the people have been waiting. Is this something that can . . ?
13 **EVA:** *(Interrupting)* . . . wait? No. You see, it's one of the wise people.
14 **BRIDGET:** What about one of the wise people?
15 **EVA:** **(S)**He has to leave early.
16 **BRIDGET:** Leave early? Are you kidding me? What for?
17 **EVA:** **(S)**He didn't say. But, I think it's a soccer game.
18 **BRIDGET:** **(S)**He can't leave early. The wise people are in the third act.
19 **EVA:** I know! But I've been thinking about it, and I think we can still do this.
20 **BRIDGET:** Really? How?
21 **EVA:** We just do the pageant backward.
22 **BRIDGET:** Sounds good. *(Pause)* Wait! What? We just do the pageant—backward?
23 **EVA:** Sure! It'll be easy. We'll do the third act- first and the first act- third.
24 **BRIDGET:** *(Slowly)* We do the . . .
25 **EVA:** . . third act-first and the first act- third. Get it?
26 **BRIDGET:** Got it.
27 **EVA:** Good. *(turns around to the choir)* OK, everybody! Everybody! Listen up! Herod, wise
28 people! You're on first!

29 **VOICE 1:** What's on second?
30 **EVA:** Shepherds. Mary and Joseph are on third. Everyone got that?
31 **VOICE 2:** Who's on first?
32 **EVA:** No, Herod's on first!
33 **VOICE 3:** Then who is on third?
34 **BRIDGET:** Time to start!
35 **EVA:** Of course! (*Very dramatically*) Friends, we present *The Backward Christmas*
36 *Pageant!*

"WE THREE KINGS"

ACT THREE

(Sign Holder holds up the "ACT THREE" card. Sheep move quietly into place in the aisles. Assistant moves into place onstage.)

1 **NARRATOR**: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the
2 king, behold, wise people from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he
3 who is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come
4 to worship him." Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained
5 (discovered) from them what time the star appeared, and he sent them to
6 Bethlehem saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have
7 found him bring me word, so that I too may come and worship him."

(Sheep "baa" in aisle.) **OPTIONAL: SHEEP SOUND EFFECT**

8 **WISE PERSON 1**: (*From the back of the sanctuary or the side of the chancel area*) Excuse
9 me, is this the palace of King Herod?

10 **ASSISTANT**: Yes, it is.

11 **WISE PERSON 2**: King Herod, the mighty?

12 **ASSISTANT**: Indeed.

13 **WISE PERSON 3**: King Herod, the powerful?

14 **ASSISTANT**: Certainly.

15 **WISE PERSON 4**: Then, what are all these sheep doing here?

16 (Sheep withdraw.)

17 **ASSISTANT**: Haven't got a clue. They've been wandering the streets all morning. I was
18 twenty minutes late for work. Blasted herd of sheep!

19 **WISE PERSON 1**: What's that?

20 **ASSISTANT**: Herd of sheep.

21 **WISE PERSON 2**: Of course, we've heard of sheep.

22 **ASSISTANT**: No, a *herd* of sheep. That's what caused the traffic jam.

23 **WISE PERSON 3**: Properly speaking, it's a flock.

24 **ASSISTANT**: A what?

25 **WISE PERSON 3**: A flock. The correct term for a group of sheep is a *flock*.

26 **ASSISTANT**: Who is that back there?

27 **WISE PERSON 3:** It is I.
28 **ASSISTANT:** Oh, great! An English major.
29 **WISE PERSON 3:** I am a Wise Person from the East. I, and my fellow Wise People, have
30 come here, following yonder star.

(Wise Person 3 points to the star. Wise Person 2 looks through the telescope as Wise Person 1 and Wise Person 4 create exaggerated postures of looking toward the star.)

31 **ASSISTANT:** You know, we've been wondering what that was. Think it's got anything to
32 do with the sheep?

33 **WISE PERSON 2:** I don't believe so.

34 *(Claps hands. Gift Bearer come forward with gifts, hands them to Wise Persons 1, 2,*
35 *and 4.)*

36 **WISE PERSON 2:** We have taken it as a sign that a king has been born, and we have
37 come to offer worship and give gifts.

38 **ASSISTANT:** Such as?

39 **WISE PERSON 1:** *(Revealing gift)* Gold!

40 **WISE PERSON 2:** *(Revealing gift)* Frankincense!

41 **WISE PERSON 4:** *(Revealing soccer ball)* Myrrh! Oops!

(Prop Person comes out with a bottle filled with colored liquid, takes the soccer ball, and gives Wise Person 4 the bottle.)

42 **WISE PERSON 4:** Thanks!

43 **PALACE GUARD:** Hear Ye Hear Ye! The king approaches! Make way for the mighty
44 King Herod!

(Herod enters through the center aisle, picking very large balls of lint off his clothing and hair)

45 **ASSISTANT:** Mighty king, what happened?

46 **HEROD:** Let's just say you pick up a lot of lint when you're in a traffic jam with sheep.
47 Who are *they*? *(Motions to the Wise People.)*

48 **ASSISTANT:** Wise people from the East, your Highness. They seek a newborn king.

49 **HEROD:** This is news to me. Where did you hear about a newborn king?

50 **WISE PERSON 3:** Yonder star.

51 *(Wise Person 3 points to the star. Wise Person 2 looks through telescope as Wise*
52 *Person 1 and Wise Person 4 create exaggerated postures of looking toward the*
53 *star)*

54 **WISE PERSON 4:** We take it as a sign.

55 **HEROD:** Oh, is that what it is? I thought it had something to do with the sheep.

56 **WISE PEOPLE and ASSISTANT:** (*Together*) We don't think so.

57 **HEROD:** I guess not. (pause) Look, will you fellows excuse us for a minute? I need to
58 consult with my assistant on.... uh...the other side of the room. Just make your-
59 selves at home. While you're waiting, someone will perform a song appropriate to
60 the season.

(Herod, Assistant and Guard move to the rear of the stage with their backs to the audience. They mime talking together)

"GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE"

61 **HEROD:** Hope you enjoyed that.

62 **WISE PERSON 4:** Very much.

63 **HEROD:** We know you want to get on your way, so use the showers, pick up whatever
64 you want from the cafeteria, and go on your way to find that newborn king. ***BUT*** . . .
65 on your way home, I ***insist*** you stop here for the night, and when you do, be sure to
66 tell me where this king is, so I can eliminate him.

67 (*Assistant coughs loudly and stamps foot.*)

68 **HEROD:** I mean, *worship* him. Did I say *eliminate*? I meant *worship*! Really?

69 **WISE PERSON 1:** Sure thing, king. Thanks for the hospitality.

70 **NARRATOR:** When they had heard the king they went on their way; and lo, the star,
71 which they had seen in the East, went before them, till it came to rest over the
72 place where the child was. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
73 they departed to their own country by another way.

"SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS"

Act Two

(Sign Holder holds up "ACT TWO" card).

1 **NARRATOR**: And in that region, there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch
2 over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory
3 of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to
4 them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will
5 come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who
6 is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in
7 swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a
8 multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the
9 highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all."

(Sheep "baa". A few sheep should slowly move to the stage and sit quietly near the Shepherds.)

(Rookie Shepherd dashes up the aisle, arriving on the stage breathless.)

10 **SHEPHERD 1**: Floyd! Where have you been?

11 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: *(Gasping)* I'm sorry . . . I'm late . .

12 **SHEPHERD 1**: You *should* be sorry. First night on the job, and you're late?

13 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: *(Gasping)* I know-

14 **SHEPHERD 1**: You're not one of those people who think being a shepherd is easy, are
15 you?

16 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: *(Gasping)* No, sir . . .

17 **SHEPHERD 1**: It's not like we just sit up here, admiring the view, staring at the stars. Uh,
18 uh. We *work* on this hillside. There are dozens of sheep out there, counting on us.
19 If one of us isn't pulling his weight, we could have a disaster on our hands.

20 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: *(Gasping)* Yes, sir . . .

21 **SHEPHERD 1**: Remember the Shepherd's Credo:

22 **ALL SHEPHERDS**: "On the hill, on time, on the job!"

23 **SHEPHERD 2**: Uh, chief?

24 **SHEPHERD 1**: What is it?

25 **SHEPHERD 2**: Time for dinner break.

26 **SHEPHERD 1**: OK, everybody! Chow time!

(All Shepherds except Rookie Shepherd pull out paper bags and begin to mime eating.)

27 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: Excuse me, could you spare some?

28 **SHEPHERD 3**: What?

29 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: (Sheepishly) I don't have any dinner,

30 **SHEPHERD 3**: Why not? You know we work out here all night. Did you think food was just
31 going to appear before you?

32 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: No, sir, you see I gave it to this young girl who looked like she
33 needed it more than me.

34 **SHEPHERD 3**: Oh, never mind. Here. *(Passes sandwich to Rookie Shepherd.)* I hope you
35 like peanut butter and jelly.

36 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: (Enthusiastically) Yes sir, I love peanut butter and jelly!

37 **ANGEL**: (From balcony or other visible place) Be not afraid!

38 **SHEPHERDS**: (Mouths full of peanut butter) Mwuf, mwuf!

39 **ANGEL**: For I bring great tidings of great joy! For unto you is born this day a Savior, which
40 is Christ the Lord!

41 **SHEPHERDS**: Mwuf, mwuf!

42 **ANGEL**: And this shall be a sign to you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling
43 clothes and lying in a manger.

44 **SHEPHERDS**: Mwuf, mwuf!

45 **ANGEL CHORUS**: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all!

46 **SHEPHERD 4**: Man! Did you see that? That was amazing!

47 **SHEPHERD 5**: There we were, in the presence of God's messenger, and we were all
48 struck silent!

49 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: That peanut butter really sticks to the roof of your mouth, doesn't it?

50 **SHEPHERD 1**: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing of which the angel spoke.

51 **SHEPHERD 6**: What about the sheep?

52 **SHEPHERD 1**: Leave them. They're just sheep. What trouble can they get into?

(Sheep bleat, wander offstage.)

53 **NARRATOR**: When the angels went away to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
54 "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened and which the
55 Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and
56 Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

"RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW"

Act One

Scene 1

(Sign Holder holds up "ACT ONE" card.)

(Joseph and Mary move into place.)

1 **NARRATOR**: In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah,
2 whose wife was named Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God. But they
3 had no child, and both were advanced in years. In the temple, there appeared to
4 Zechariah an angel of the Lord who said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for
5 your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, and you shall call his
6 name John." And Zechariah said, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and
7 my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who
8 stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you
9 good news. And, behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that
10 these things come to pass."

11 **JOSEPH**: I got the mail, Mary. Here's a letter for you.

12 **MARY**: Thanks, Joseph. How was everything in the shop today? ***(Opens her letter and***
13 ***begins to read.)***

14 **JOSEPH**: Oh, the usual. Sawing, hammering, sweeping, then more sawing. Sometimes, I
15 wish things were a little different. Just one day after another, all the same . . .

16 **MARY**: *(Interrupting)* I don't believe it!

17 **JOSEPH**: What, that I don't like monotony? Mary, I really *do* wish that things were different!

18 **MARY**: No, this letter. It's from Elizabeth.

19 **JOSEPH**: Zechariah's wife?

20 **MARY**: Right. They're going to have a baby.

21 **JOSEPH**: A baby? At *their* age?

22 **MARY**: And that's not all. Zechariah can't speak.

23 **JOSEPH**: He can't speak? Not at all?

24 **MARY**: They think he saw a vision in the temple.

25 **JOSEPH**: Maybe he was thinking about all the diapers and the midnight feedings...

26 **MARY**: This is amazing. They have been praying for this for years.

27 **JOSEPH:** Well, I guess when God wants to do a miracle, you get a miracle. (***Looks at***
28 ***mail, holds up green slip.***) Hey, a certified letter! I'll run down to the post office
29 and pick it up.

(Joseph exits, as the Angel comes to the door and knocks.)

(Mary opens the door)

30 **ACT 1 ANGEL:** Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you!

31 **MARY:** Are you sure you're not looking for my husband?

32 **ACT 1 ANGEL:** Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God!

33 **MARY:** So . . . this is going to be good news, right?

34 **ACT 1 ANGEL:** You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him
35 Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord
36 will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of
37 Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

38 **MARY:** How can this be?

39 **ACT 1 ANGEL:** The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will
40 overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the
41 Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a
42 son; for nothing is impossible with God.

43 **MARY:** Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.

(The Angel exits. Joseph enters.)

44 **JOSEPH:** Good thing I picked up this letter. There's going to be a census, and . . . is
45 something wrong?

46 **MARY:** (*Slowly, as if stunned*) Joseph, you know how an angel told Elizabeth and
47 Zechariah that they're having a baby, even though they're quite old?

48 **JOSEPH:** Uh, yes.

49 **MARY:** (Beginning to get excited) Well, an angel just came here and told me that I will
50 have a baby who will be the Son of God!

51 **JOSEPH:** How can this be?

52 **MARY:** I asked the same question. The angel said nothing is impossible with God.

53 **JOSEPH:** First, I'm really happy. Second, we have a problem.

54 **MARY:** What's the problem?

55 **JOSEPH:** This letter. They're doing a census.

56 **MARY:** Why is that a problem?

57 **JOSEPH**: We have to go back to my hometown—Bethlehem.

58 **MARY**: I like Bethlehem. When do we leave?

59 **JOSEPH**: In about nine months.

60 **(Mary and Joseph slowly turn to look at one another.)**

61 **MARY and JOSEPH**: Uh, oh.

62 **JOSEPH**: I sure hope that angel was right about the "nothing is impossible" part.

63 **NARRATOR**: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee

64 named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the

65 house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail,

66 O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and

67 considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her,

68 "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will

69 conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

“ O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL ”

Act One

Scene 2

70 **NARRATOR**: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world
71 should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of
72 Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up
73 from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is
74 called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be
75 enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

STABLE ANIMAL SOUND EFFECTS (CD #12)

76 **JOSEPH**: So, what do you think?

77 **MARY**: It's not the honeymoon suite.

78 **JOSEPH**: It fits our budget.

79 **MARY**: I'm sure it will do fine.

80 *(Mary sits on the pile of rags, which turns out to be a sleeping Rookie Shepherd.)*

81 **MARY**: I'm sorry. Are you all right?

82 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: *(Stands up.)* I'm fine. Oh, man, I'm late for work! And it's my first
83 night on the job! I've just been promoted from stable boy to shepherd!

84 **JOSEPH**: Congratulations. Before you go, is there someplace around here we can get
85 dinner?

86 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: No, the restaurant at the inn stops serving at ten. *(Picks up paper*
87 *"lunch bag" and offers it to Mary.)* But, here, take mine.

88 **MARY**: No, we couldn't.

89 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: It's OK. Hope you like peanut butter and jelly.

90 *(Mary takes the bag. Rookie Shepherd quickly runs offstage.)*

91 **MARY**: *(Toward the retreating Rookie Shepherd)* Thank you!

92 **JOSEPH**: *(Waves toward Rookie Shepherd.)* Good night!

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

Epilogue

1 **NARRATOR**: And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she
2 gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a
3 manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

4 **JOSEPH**: Baby fall asleep again?

5 **MARY**: Yes. I'm glad you thought of putting him in the manger.

6 **JOSEPH**: How was the sandwich?

7 **MARY**: Perfect. What a wonderful gift. Stuck to the roof of my mouth a little, though.

8 **JOSEPH**: It's hard to believe.

9 **MARY**: What? Peanut butter?

10 **JOSEPH**: Everything the angel said.

11 **MARY**: I can believe it. There are moments that change everything. This is one of them.

12 (*Shepherds and Rookie Shepherd enter.*)

13 **NARRATOR**: When the angels went away to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
14 "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened and which the
15 Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph,
16 and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying
17 which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at
18 what the shepherds told them. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising
19 God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

20 **SHEPHERD 1**: Is this the child the angels told us about?

21 **MARY**: Yes.

22 **ROOKIE SHEPHERD**: (Looking around) I love what you've done with this place

23 (*Wise People enter*)

24 **NARRATOR**: When the Wise People had heard the king they went on their way; and lo,
25 the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over
26 the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly
27 with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother,
28 and they fell down and worshiped him.

29 **WISE PERSON 1**: Excuse me. We are Wise People from the East. We are here to worship
30 the newborn king.

31 **JOSEPH**: (*To Wise Person 4*) I thought you had a soccer game.

32 **WISE PERSON 4**: I wanted to see how the story ends.

33 **JOSEPH:** This is one of those stories that never ends.

"AWAY IN A MANGER"

34 **NARRATOR:** And Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

35 **MARY:** This will change everything.

36 **NARRATOR:** From now on, it will be hard to remember what life was like before this
37 happened.

38 **MARY:** This *will* change everything.

39 **NARRATOR:** All fear and all terror will be as nothing compared to the love and hope in the
40 face of one small baby.

41 **MARY:** This will change *everything*.

42 **NARRATOR:** This is the moment of God's grace. And this moment is forever!

1

Song Lyrics

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and
mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light!***

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold
I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light!***

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light!***

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light!***

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King
and God and sacrifice: Alleluia,
Alleluia, sounds through the earth and
skies.

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light!***

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!

Sing We Now of Christmas

1. From the eastern country
came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethlehem,
guided by the star.

Refrain:

***Sing we Noel,
the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas,
sing we now Noel!***

2. Gold and myrrh they took there,
gifts of greatest price;
there was never a stable
so like paradise.

Refrain:

***Sing we Noel,
the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas,
sing we now Noel!***

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

1. There's a star in the East on Christmas
morn;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
it will lead to the place where the Christ
was born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain:

***Follow, follow,
rise up shepherd, and follow,
follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.***

2. If you take good heed to the angel's
words;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your
herds;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain:

***Follow, follow,
rise up shepherd, and follow,
follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.***

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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.

Refrain

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the
Lord.***

2. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

Refrain

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the
Lord.***

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. 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 year
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above;
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all on earth!

3. 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!

Away In a Manger

1. Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. 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 cradle till morning is nigh.

3. 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.

On This Day/Joy to the World

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

1. On this day earth shall ring with the
song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on
earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

Joy to the World

2. 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, & heaven, & nature sing.

3. He rules the world with truth and
grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

4. On this day angels sing; with their
song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King, born on
earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo

