



Eastwood Uniting Church

CHRISTMAS DAY!

25 December, 2020

It's a child!



Acknowledgement of Country

*We acknowledge the Wallumattagal people of the Dharug/Eora nation,
the first inhabitants of this place.*

We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

We Gather for Christmas

THEY WON'T BE EXPECTING THAT!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM1XusYVqNY>

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS

There are no more sleeps till Christmas!

Let us sing of the birth of a child.

CAROL Tune *Puer Nobis* TIS 293

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn33YszcDbE>

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he us all surpasses.

Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

Anon Latin 15th cent
Tr Percy Dearmer 1867-1936
From the Oxford Book of Carols
By permission Oxford University Press CCLI 65422

WHAT AREWE EXPECTING?

CAROL Tune *Iris* TIS 309

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uVPQ992umY>

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
heralds of creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Hallelujah! Heaven and nature sing,
Hallelujah! Worship Christ the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching over flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:

*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

James Montgomery 1771-1854 CCLI 65422

WE LIGHT THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

CAROL Tune *Cradle Song* TIS 318

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjtYtBGrP6Y>

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Anon 19th Century

DO ANGELS STILL SING?

CAROL Tune *Winchester Old* TIS 299

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvs83qpoysg>

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,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
you and all humankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'

Nahum Tate 17th century

WHERE DO ANGELS SING?

FROM LUKE'S PARABLE OF JESUS Luke 2. 8-14

PREAMBLE TO CAROL

Only Luke tells the story with shepherds.

In the last verse of this hymn
we join Luke's angels in singing the 'first Christmas Carol'.

CAROL Tune *Winchester Old* TIS 299

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvs83qpoysg>

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 world be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate 1652-1715 *alt*

After birth

FROM LUKE'S PARABLE OF JESUS Luke 2. 15-20

THE PEACE

May the vulnerable Spirit of Jesus be always with you.
And also with you.

We Respond to God's Character of Love

OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING

For the rustling of angels wings
close to those who are grieving:

We are thankful, great God.

For the skies
lit up with hope
arching over a groaning creation:

We are thankful, great God.

For the sight
of the face of a child
excited in anticipation of wonder-filled truth.

We are thankful, great God.

All these remind us of your coming, Christ Jesus.
All these call us away from discouragement
into the enchantment of God
which gives us strength to face the future.

And we are thankful.

We are immensely thankful. Amen.

OFFERING

We Go Out to Serve God in the World

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CAROL Tune *Antioch* TIS 268

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtrnuG5wZ-Y>

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive its 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 earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and streams,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Isaac Watts 1674-1748 *alt.*
Based on Psalm 98
Used with permission
CCLI 65422

STAR OF WONDER

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHjiB-xp_tE

