

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

#### **CAROL: O Come All Ye Faithful**

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.**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning.  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Parent, now in flesh appearing.

#### **Refrain**

Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.  
Glory to God in the highest.

#### **Refrain**

*Please remain standing*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the deep shadows of the night,

**People: The light of the World shines forth.**

Leader: Through the pain of birth,

**People: Hope arrives.**

Leader: Out of the tyranny of oppression,

**People: A liberator is born.**

Leader: Amid the poverty of a stable,

**People: A monarch comes.**

Leader: From the struggle of life,

**People: A peace-maker enters the world.**

Leader: On this night, we prepare ourselves once more for the miracle of Jesus' birth as God is born among us.

*Let us pray*

O God of all creation be with us:  
in the day and in the night,  
in our joys and in our sorrows.

O God be with us:

As the Light of Lives, Hope-bearer, Liberator, Ruler, and Peace-Maker.

O God, tonight you declare:

*"Behold, I bring you Good News of great joy for all people*

*Please be seated*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*The leader will light the Advent candles. After each candle is lit, a verse of **Silent Night** will be sung.*

**Leader:** We light the four Advent candles. Each candle symbolises the hope, peace, joy and love that are to be found in Christ Jesus.

**Hope:** **We light the candle of hope which reminds us of the hope of salvation in Christ.**

**CAROL:** **Silent Night**

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.

**Peace:** **We light the candle of peace which reminds us that the peace that passes all understanding comes from Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Silent Night, Holy Night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glory streams from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia!

**Joy:** **We light the candle of joy which reminds us that the joy in believing in Christ can carry us through temptation, anxiety and grief.**

Silent night, Holy night!  
Son of God loves pure light.  
Radiance beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth!

**Love:** **We light the candle of love which reminds us that anything we do without love is worth nothing.**

Hangu te po, tapu te po!  
Marino, marama.  
Ko te whaea me te tama.  
Tama tino tapu rawa.  
Moe mai i te marie!  
Moe mai i te marie!

*The congregation will now light their candles. The leader will move down through the aisle, lighting the candle of the person at the end of each row of seats, who will then light the candle of the person sitting beside him/her.*

READING: A reading from 2 Samuel, chapter 7, beginning at verse 1.

After King David was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the King "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

That night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?"

“Now then, tell my servant David, this is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you.

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me, your throne will be established forever.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL: When A Child Is Born**

A ray of hope, flickers in the sky  
A tiny star, lights up way up high.  
All across the land, dawns a brand new morn.  
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

A silent wish, sails the seven seas.  
The winds of change, whisper in the trees.  
And the walls of doubt, crumble tossed and torn.  
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

A rosy hue, settles all around.  
You’ve got the feel, you’re on solid ground.  
For a spell or two, no-one seems forlorn.  
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

It’s all a dream, an illusion now.  
It must come true, sometime soon somehow.  
All across the land, dawns a brand new morn.  
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

READING: A reading from Acts, chapter 13, beginning a verse 16.

Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country, he endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert, he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance. All this took about 450 years.

“After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do’.

From that man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised. Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

“Brothers, children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**

**Carol: Emmanuel**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us.  
His name is called Emmanuel.

E te Atua, e te Atua.  
Karanga koe, e te Atua.  
Wairua tiaho mai.  
Karanga koe, e te Atua.

READING: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 1, beginning at verse 67.

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:  
“ Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us - to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in the darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

**THE FIRST NOEL**

The first noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay.  
In fields there they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*  
*Noel, noel, noel, noel,*  
*Born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far.  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*  
And entered in those Magi three,  
Fall reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense

*Refrain*  
Now let us all with one accord,  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

*Refrain*

**CAROL:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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

*Refrain*

*Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King*

Christ by highest heaven adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a virgins womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel

*Refrain*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the son of righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth

*Refrain*

THE SERMON

CAROL: Mary's Boy Child

Long time ago, in Bethlehem,  
so the Holy Bible say,  
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ,  
was born on Christmas day.

***Chorus***

*Hark now hear the angels sing,  
a new King born today,  
And man will live forever more,  
because of Christmas day  
Trumpets sound and angels sing,  
listen to what they say  
that man will live forever more,  
because of Christmas day.*

While shepherds watch their flocks by night,  
they see a bright new shining star,  
Then hear a choir of angels sing,  
The music seemed to come from afar.

***Chorus***

Now Joseph and his wife Mary,  
come to Bethlehem that night,  
They find no place to lay the child,  
Not a single room was in sight.

***Chorus***

By and by they found a little nook  
in a stable all forlorn,  
and in a manger, cold and dark,  
Mary's little boy was born.

***Chorus***

*Please Be Seated*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**All: Child of God, light that shines in the dark,  
child of joy and peace,  
help us to come to you  
and be born anew this holy night.**

**Sovereign God  
you make us glad with the yearly festival  
of the birth of your son, Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world;  
Grant that we, who have known the revelation of that light on  
earth,  
may see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.**

**We pray, O God, that this evening be holy and filled with  
goodness  
that all will hear the angels' call for peace  
that all people will feel your love for them  
that the world might turn to peace  
on this night and on all nights.  
That the hope and goodness we feel in our hearts tonight  
will guide our lives from this point on.  
That your presence, O Holy One,  
be especially with all people and all nations  
who do not know peace this night.  
In the name of the one born this night we pray.  
AMEN.**

OFFERTORY CAROL : Silver Bells

Silver bells, Silver bells  
soon it will be Christmas Day.  
City side walk busy side walk,  
Dressed in holiday style,  
in the air there's a feeling of Christmas.  
Children laughing, people passing  
meeting smile after smile,  
And on every street corner you'll hear

*Silver bells, Silver bells,  
its Christmas time in the city  
Ring a ding, hear them ring,  
Soon it will be Christmas Day.*

Strings of street lights,  
even stop lights blinking bright  
red and green  
as the shoppers rush home with their treasures  
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch,  
This is Santa's big scene,  
and above all this bustle, you'll hear:

*Silver bells, Silver bells,  
it's Christmas time in the city,  
Ring a ding, hear them ring  
Soon it will be Christmas Day.*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

*The service will continue on page 485 of the New Zealand Prayer Book. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, we will return to this service book.*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: We light the Christ candle.

*A short period of silent reflection on what it means for us that Christ has come...that Christ is with us.*

Leader: Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God, which is ours through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## TE MANAAKITANGA

*The Bishop is to bestow a blessing upon the people.*

## CAROL: So This Is Christmas

So this is Christmas, and what have you done?  
Another year over, a new one coming on.  
A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,  
let's make it a good one, without any fear.

So this is Christmas, for weak and for strong,  
the rich and the poor, the old and the young.  
And so Happy Christmas, for black and for white,  
for men of all nations, let's stop all the fight.

A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year,  
let's make it a good one, without any fear.  
So this is Christmas, and what have you done?  
Another year over, a new one coming on.

And so Happy Christmas, we hope you have fun,  
the near and the dear ones, the old and the young.  
A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year,  
let's make it a good one, without any fear.

A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year,  
let's make it a good one, without any fear.

## THE DISMISSAL OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: Go tell of the angels' song: that good news of great joy is  
hear, that Christ has been born for the people.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,  
peace among God's people!

Haere i runga i te aroha.  
Haere i runga i te rangimarie.

**People: Amine. Ka haere matou i runga i te ingoa o te Karaiti.  
Kororia ki te Atua.**