

## 2011 Christmas Program

We invite the congregation to sing with us on the Christmas Carols!

**Kevin** About two thousand years ago the emperor decreed  
That all the world must be enrolled ... Let no one fail to heed!  
The world was quite mixed up, you see, and no one seemed to know:  
How many people WERE there? And what taxes did they owe?

**King** Throughout the earth, the rich, the poor, the young, the very old,  
All traveled to their towns of birth so they could be enrolled.  
And so it was, to Bethlehem, a man named Joseph went  
To list his name and see how much he owed the government.

### **SONG** O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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 years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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.

**Andre** Beside him Mary traveled, too. Not once did she protest  
How long and hard the trip had been; how much she needed rest.  
In Bethlehem they found the inn and knocked upon the door.  
"My rooms are filled!" the owner yelled, "I haven't any more!"

**Niki** When Joseph told him quietly of gentle Mary's plight:  
That she would have a baby soon, perhaps that very night,  
The owner stood in thought and rubbed his bushy bearded jaw.  
"I'll let you have the stable then. You'll have to sleep on straw."

**Chris** So Joseph and his wife unpacked and settled down to rest,  
Not caring that they couldn't have the biggest and the best.  
They ate their simple supper as they watched the sun go down,  
And yawned as darkness fell at last upon the little town.

### **SONG** AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky look down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle, 'Til 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.

**Mikayla** The night was silent. Everyone, it seemed, was fast asleep  
Except for shepherds in the field who had to watch their sheep.  
They huddled close and whispered low to keep themselves awake.  
Then suddenly their eyes grew wide - their knees began to shake!

For there, above them in the sky, an angel did appear.  
The glory of the Lord shone down, and they were filled with fear!  
The angel spoke: "Fear not! Behold, I bring you news of joy!  
In Bethlehem, this very night was born a baby boy.

**Luke** He is the Savior, Christ the Lord; He'll win over death and sin.  
Upon a manger bed He lies, behind a lowly inn."  
And suddenly a multitude of angels filled the sky,  
Their voices glorifying God and praising Him on high!

And "Peace on earth, good will to men!" resounded through the air—  
It seemed there must have been at least a million angels there!

**SONG** **ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH!**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing.  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King.  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

**Luke** No longer did the shepherds quake with anxious fear and dread  
And when the angels disappeared the shepherds quickly said:

**William** "Oh, let us go to Bethlehem and find the manger bed!"  
And off across the fields they ran - to Bethlehem they sped!  
The manger wasn't hard to find, and there the shepherds' eyes  
Fell on a sight that filled their hearts with wonder and surprise:

For there was Joseph, standing tall and gazing down with care  
Upon his blessed Mary and the Baby lying there.  
"A wondrous child!" the shepherds cried in voices of delight.  
"See there - around Him shines a strange and heavenly light.

**Devon** How warm and bright it seems against the coldness of this night!  
He surely is the One we seek; the angel's words were right!"  
To Mary and to Joseph and to everyone they saw  
The shepherds told the story that had filled them with such awe:

"This baby is the Promised Prince, the Mighty Lord, the King.  
We know, because tonight we heard the holy angels sing.  
They told us that this blessed Child of low and humble birth,  
Was truly Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the earth!

**Anastasia**

The news was spread from town to town the whole world must be told  
Till every person, rich, or poor, or young, or very old,  
Has heard about the coming of the Savior of all men,  
Whom God has sent to earth because of His great love for them.

**All** "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY  
BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

John 3:16

**SONG: CHARITY - Solo**

Although I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,  
Although I prophesy and understand all,  
Although I have all faith so mountains may be removed,  
And though I feed the poor and give up my life,  
If I have not charity, If love does not flow from me,  
I am nothing. Jesus, reduce me love!

Love is patient and kind, love is not envious.  
Not proud but gentle and meek; seeks not its own way.  
Love sings when Jesus prevails, believes and endures all things.  
Love hopes and bears every wrong, and love never fails.  
One season I was a child; I thought and I spoke as a child.  
But when I turned to man, such ways put aside.  
Though now we see through a glass, then we shall see face to face.  
Though now abide faith and hope, the greatest is love.

Jesus, reduce me to love.

**Jenna** Most of us are sure we know just what the word LOVE means;  
But if we think a bit, we find, it means more than it seems.  
Perhaps we say we "love" to read, or "love" to eat a lot.  
Or maybe "love" to sing and play, or "love" new clothes we've bought.

It isn't wrong to love those things, but love means much, much more.  
God wanted us to know just what true love was fashioned for.  
So, He inspired Apostle Paul, who preached the world around,  
To write about this word called love; and here is what he found:

**Nicole** If you could speak all languages from every land quite well,  
Without the love of Christ in you you're just a clanking bell.  
Or, if you spoke like angels do, in soft mysterious voices,  
Your words - without the gift of love - are only jingling noises.

If you could preach like famous men and tell about God's glory,  
Omitting love, your words would be an empty-sounding story.  
If future times and mysteries are understood by you,  
But you've no word of love to share your benefits are few.

**Sarah** If you have read the world's great books and understand all  
knowledge,  
Such wisdom, without love, is like a run-down, empty college.  
And, if your faith were strong enough to make huge mountains  
tumble,  
Such pow'r, without true love, would be no more than thunder's  
rumble.

And if you gave your goods away - everything you could –  
Good works like these, without your love, won't do you any good.  
And just as worthless would it be if you could give to burn  
Your very body, set on fire - no blessing would that earn.

**Elyse** These kinds of things may well be good, but they aren't really love;  
For love is special, something more - it comes from God above.  
True love is patient, quiet, calm; true love is always kind.  
It doesn't laugh when someone fails; to weaknesses it's blind.

love isn't jealous, stingy, proud; it's never mean or rude.  
It won't tell others what you've done or look for gratitude.  
And even when it is abused it's hard to make love mad.  
When good and evil are the choice, love doesn't choose the bad.

**Kari** When life gets hard and things go wrong, true love won't ever quit-  
Not even when good friends depart, or pain and sadness hit.  
Those people who "predict things" fail; their words are often wrong.  
Those people who know languages can't master every tongue.

And people who are really smart are known to make mistakes;  
But love won't ever let you down - it's got just what it takes!  
When you are young and still a child you do the normal things;  
But, when you're grown, you change your ways to what adulthood  
brings.

**Philip** Or, just as life on earth seems hazy (like seen in some cheap mirror),  
When we're finally "grown" in heaven, everything is clearer.  
God gave His love by sending down His Son to suffer for us.  
He shows His love more every day; He never will ignore us.

And, just as He loved us, He asks us all to love each other.  
He asks us, please love everyone, as sisters and as brothers.  
These special gifts - faith, hope, and love - come straight from God  
above.  
Both faith and hope are great; however, God's greatest gift is love!

**SONG** **JOY TO THE WORLD**

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, and Heaven, and nature  
sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

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.

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After Gifts are handed out - we will sing:

**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.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior 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!

**Thank you for coming to celebrate the birth  
of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ with us.**

**As we celebrate Christmas may we  
remember that the greatest Christmas gift  
wasn't placed under a tree,  
HE was hung on a tree  
to die for you and me!**

**Blessed Christmas to Everyone!**