

CAROL

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#272

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Off Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind:
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
4. O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray
to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

READING

Micah 5:2-5a

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#279

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 years 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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. 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;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

READING

Luke 1:26-35, 38

CAROL

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

#265

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

2. **“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**
3. **Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**
4. **Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

READING

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

#276

1. **Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Chris the child is Lord of all: Christ the child is Lord of all!**
2. **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

READING

Luke 2:8-16

CAROL*“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

#275

1. **Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
once you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
2. **Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
3. **Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
4. **All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

READING

Luke 2:21-35

CAROL*"Love Has Come"*

#292

1. Love has come a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
3. Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on High!

READING

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL*"The First Noel"*

#300

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
2. 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.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.
4. This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.

READING

Matthew 2:13-18

CAROL*"What Child Is This"*

#296

1. What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are
keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

READING

John 1:1-14

CAROL*"He Came Down"*

#253

1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah for evermore.
2. He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah for evermore.
3. He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah for evermore.
4. He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah for evermore.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Petitions end: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#290

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE