Carols on the Green

The Village Green, Nether Heyford
Sunday 20th December 2020, 3:00PM

Welcome and Opening Prayer

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in the dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

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

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.

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 Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Please maintain a distance of two
metres between yourselves and other
households or bubbles.
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

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," he said,
For mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind."

"To you in David's
Town this day
Is born of David's line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign."

"The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped
In swathing bands
And in a manger laid."

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 earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease!"

Little donkey, little donkey
on the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
with your precious load
Been a long time, little donkey,
through the winter's night
don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem in sight

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way

Little donkey, little donkey,
journey's end is near
There are wiseman waiting for
a sign to bring them here
Do not falter little donkey,
there's a star ahead
It will guide you, little donkey,
to a cattle shed

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way

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 the sky
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.
The Birth of Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

See, the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem,
Gaze in wonder
At the Son of God who lay before them

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

Wise men journey,
Led to worship by a star
Kneel in homage
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

"God is with us"
Round the world the message bring
He is with us
"Welcome", all the bells on earth are pealing

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

Prayers

Hark! the herald-angels sing
‘Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.’
Joyful, all you nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’
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 virgin’s womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
‘Glory to the new-born King!’

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun 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.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
‘Glory to the new-born King!’
**Blessing**

May the joy of the angels, 
the eagerness of the shepherds, 
the perseverance of the wise men, 
the obedience of Joseph and Mary, 
and the peace of the baby Jesus 
be yours this Christmas; 
and the blessing of God almighty, 
the Father, the Son, 
and the Holy Spirit, 
be among you 
and remain with you always.  

*Amen.*

Please take this carol sheet home with you and take care on leaving the green to maintain a social distance of two metres from other households or bubbles.

On behalf of all the local churches, may I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and blessed Christmas.

Rev Stephen

**We wish you a Merry Christmas** (x3)  
And a happy new year!

*Good tidings we bring,*  
to you and your kin;  
*we wish you a Merry Christmas,*  
*and a happy new year!*

Now bring us some figgy pudding, (x3)  
and bring some out here.

*Good tidings we bring,*  
to you and your kin;  
*we wish you a Merry Christmas,*  
*and a happy new year!*

We all like figgy pudding (x3)  
So bring some out here

*Good tidings we bring,*  
to you and your kin;  
*we wish you a Merry Christmas,*  
*and a happy new year!*

And we won’t go until we’ve got some (x3)  
So bring some out here

*Good tidings we bring,*  
to you and your kin;  
*we wish you a Merry Christmas,*  
*and a happy new year!*