

**Informal welcome**

*Jesus, you left behind unimaginable riches and came to find us,*  
**Jesus, we meet you here**  
**and share in God's love.**

*Jesus, you came and walked alongside us to demonstrate God's love for us,*  
**Jesus, we meet you here**  
**we never have to walk alone.**

*Jesus, you showed us how to love all your children,*  
*especially those who are struggling,*  
**Jesus, we meet you here,**  
**and follow your call to share what we have, so all are included.**

*We thank you God for being with us now, Amen.*

**Carol – Once in Royal**

*A child to bring up baby Jesus and place into the crib in the final verse*

**Once in royal David's city,  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**



**And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on,  
To the place where He is gone.**

### **The Blessing of the Crib**

*God's love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the world  
so that we could have life through him.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*God our Father, we ask you to bless this crib  
which we have prepared to celebrate Jesus' birth,  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.*

**Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Christmas Tree**

**9Carol: Calypso Carol (give out instruments)**

**See him lying on a bed of straw,  
A draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore;  
The Prince of glory is His name.**

***O now carry me to Bethlehem,  
to see the Lord appear to men;  
Just as poor as was the stable then,  
the Prince of glory when He came.***



**Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise to see the Saviour of the world.**

***Chorus***

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
bring God's glory to the heart of man;  
Sing that Bethlehem's little baby can  
be salvation to the soul.**

***Chorus***

**Mine are riches, from your poverty,  
from your innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by your death for me, child of sorrow for my joy.**

***Chorus***

**Story**

-----  
**Video song – Bethlehem with sign language**  
-----

**B**

**Talk**

**Carol – Away in a Manger**

**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 thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side  
until morning is nigh.**

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

### **Prayers**

Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for our families and anyone we'll miss this Christmas.

Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for people around the world without homes or who are having a difficult time because of war and unrest.

Jesus, sharing the stable with animals: we pray for creation and our planet, that we might cherish it as you cherish us.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for all nations, world leaders and all people God made, especially any who are discriminated against.

Jesus, our Emmanuel: we pray for anyone we know who is sad, unwell or in particular need.

Jesus, God with us – we pray for ourselves, that we might know how deeply we are loved.

**Lord's Prayer**



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,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Carol – O Come All Ye Faithful (Get louder in the chorus)**

**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;**

***O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.***

**God of God, light of light  
Lo he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God  
begotten not created:**

***Chorus***

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God in the Highest;**



***Chorus***

**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 Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Carol – We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

**We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year**

**Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin**

**We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!**