



St Dunstan's | St Alban's | St Oswald's  
**CHEAM TEAM MINISTRY**  
*working together for the glory of God*

# Christmas Eve Crib Service

## **Welcome and Introduction**

### **First Carol**

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 mean 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 heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

### **The Nativity Story**

*The story of the first Christmas is told and the figures are placed in the crib scene. At various points in the story, we will pause to sing carols.*

### **Second Carol**

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.

### **Third Carol**

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright,  
round the virgin and her child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quail at the sight:  
glory streams from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### **Fourth Carol**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will and peace,  
From Heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

And those whose journey now is hard,  
whose hope is burning low,  
who tread the rocky path of life  
with painful steps and slow;  
O listen to the news of love  
which makes the heavens ring!  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

### **Fifth Carol**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
an angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all your kind.

To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands  
and in a manger laid.

### **Sixth Carol**

In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter  
long ago.

What can I give him  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

### **Prayers**

*Followed by the Lord's Prayer:*

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is 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.**

### **Seventh Carol**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where  
He lay,  
The little lord Jesus asleep in 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 cradle till 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 take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

#### **Final Carol**

Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born 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'.

*Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

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.

*Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*