



Worship at Home: The First Sunday of Christmas

SONG

Go tell it on the mountain

Sung by Geraldine Latty

*Go (go) tell it on the mountain (go!)
Over the hills and everywhere
Go (go) tell it on the mountain (go!)
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watch here
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

*Go (go) tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go (go) tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When high above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth.

Go, go, tell it!
This is your God! This is your God! This is your God!
Go tell it, go! Tell it!
This is your God! Go!

*Go (go) tell it on the mountain (the mountain, go)
Over the hills and everywhere (over all the nations)
Go tell it on the mountain (tell it on the mountain)
That Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Jesus Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Get up to a mountain!
Good news!

*Go tell it on the mountain (the mountain)
Over the hills and everywhere (tell it everywhere)
Go tell it on the mountain (every nation needs to hear this)
That Jesus Christ is born (Christ is born).*

*Go tell it on the mountain (good news for everyone everywhere)
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

This is the good news!
Good news for everybody everywhere!

Words: John Wesley Work Jr. (1871-1925)

The Bishop of Loughborough says

All The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
 and also with you.

The officiant briefly introduces the service.

CAROL

God rest you merry, gentlemen

Sung by St Martin's Voices

God rest you merry, gentlemen
let nothing you dismay
remember, Christ, our Saviour
was born on Christmas day
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name,
Refrain

And when they came to Bethlehem
where our dear Saviour lay,
they found him in a manger
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling,
unto the Lord did pray:
Refrain

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:
Refrain

*Traditional English 18th Century
Tune: God rest ye merry*

The officiant says

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with Good News for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

REFLECTION

Andy Wilson CA, Lead Evangelist

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ana Cristina Correia Serras, Service User of Marylebone Project

A reading from the letter to the Galatians. (4.4-7)

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Hannah Seal CA, Pioneer Evangelist

CAROL

Midwinter

Sung by Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church Choir, directed by David Ogden

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago. long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air –
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

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.
Give my heart.
My heart.

*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music: Midwinter, by Bob Chilcott*

HOLY GOSPEL

Des Scott, CEO of Church Army

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. (2.15-21)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Loughborough & Vice-Chair of Church Army Board

CAROL

Silent night

Sung by St Martin's Voices

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.

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.

*Words: John Freeman Young (1887) based on Joseph Mohr (1818)
Tune: Stille Nacht*

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Cherith Withington CA, Lead Evangelist

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

PRAYERS

Pam Rhodes, Vice-President of Church Army

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.
Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless,
and to all who work them, particularly in our
projects in Tibrona and Marylebone.

All Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angel sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep,
strengthen all those who seek to bring comfort and joy
to the lonely and afraid.

All Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed,
in communities bound by conflict and violence.
Let the voice of the peacemakers be heard.

All Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern,
in our churches, in our nation and in our world.

All Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**

All Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and you hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.

Silence is kept.

The officiant prays

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

All As our Saviour taught us, so we 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The officiant may offer some brief concluding words, then says,

Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary,
revealed in his glory,
worshipped by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens.

All Blessed be God our strength and our salvation
now and for ever. Amen.

The blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
rest upon you and all those whom you love,
this Christmas time and always.
All Amen.

CAROL

Hark! the herald angels sing

Sung by Geraldine Latty

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 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 the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
The incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*

Glory! God is with us!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
And hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings
risen with healing in his wings;
mild you laid your glory by
born that we no more may die
born to raise us from the earth (*amazing love*)
born to give us second chance, second birth:

Hark! The herald angels sing (singing to you)
Hark! The herald angels sing (adoring you, Jesus)
Hark! The herald angels sing (singing, heralding)
Hark! The herald angels sing (the King of Glory coming for his throne)
Hark! The herald angels sing (glory to the King)
Hark! The herald angels sing (gonna give him Glory)

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788); George Whitefield (1714-1770);
adapted Geraldine Latty
Based on the Tune: Mendelssohn*

Acknowledgments

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British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Naomi Barry.

Music Sung by Geraldine Latty, Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis, Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church Choir, directed by David Ogden.

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