

Christmas Eve—5 pm

O Come, All Ye Faithful (VU 60 vss 1-4)

(English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841)

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:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (VU 64)

(Phillips Brooks/Lewis Henry Redner 1868)

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 are met in thee tonight.

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

How silently, how silently the wondrous
gift is given! So God imparts to human
hearts the blessed gift of 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.

Away in a Manger (VU 69)

(Author Unknown)

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 forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Angels We have Heard on High (VU 38)
(French trad., trans. James Chadwick 1860/
French carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes 1937)

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? R

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. R

Silent Night, Holy Night (VU 67)
(Joseph Mohr 1818; English trans. J. F. Young 1863)

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 Hallelujah,
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.