



## CAROL: IT WAS ON A STARRY NIGHT

1. It was on a starry night  
When the hills were bright  
Earth lay sleeping  
Sleeping calm and still  
Then in a cattle shed  
In a manger bed a Boy was born  
King of all the world

### Chorus

And all the angels sang for Him  
The bells of heaven rang for Him  
For a Boy was born King of all the world  
(REPEAT)

2. Soon the shepherds came that way  
Where the Baby lay  
And were kneeling  
Kneeling by His Side  
And their hearts believed again  
For the peace of men  
For a Boy was born  
King of all the world

CCLI Song # 643909  
Joy Webb

## A MESSAGE FROM SANTA

### CAROL: LITTLE DONKEY, LITTLE DONKEY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVQPmtjHzh4>

## ADVENT: LOOKING FORWARD – ST NICHOLAS PATRON OF CHILDREN

### PRAYER IN HONOUR OF THE LEGACY ST NICHOLAS

Loving God, we thank you for the example of your friend and follower St. Nicholas who fed the hungry, brought hope to many people in prison, who gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all. May we also try as much as we can to imitate St Nicholas and many others like him who have shared their time, talents and treasures with individuals, families and communities around them.

Loving Father, we thank you for all our leaders, family and friends who love and care for us everyday and who put our own needs before their own, and certainly before their own fears. We are grateful for the courage of people like St Nicholas, a lover of Christ and for everyone around us who demonstrates their love and care for children and people in need.

As a community of parents, grandparents, carers, teachers, community workers, leaders, neighbours and friends, we ask that you help us to take good care of all our young people, to protect and guide them, and to keep them safe.

Help us to be open to all that young people can teach us about pure joy and unconditional love. Keep us mindful of the needs of others and to reach out with love and generosity as St Nicholas, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and many other known or little-known heroes of our time have done. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.

### BIBLE READING: LUKE 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### CAROL: LONG TIME AGO IN BETHLEHEM (VIDEO)

### READING: WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?

### CAROL: AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

2. 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 'til morning is nigh

3. Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

CCLI Song # 38583

## POEM

I am not too young to read about the stories in His Word  
From a tiny baby in Bethlehem to the risen Lord  
Feeding of five thousand – turning water into wine  
This is God's son, Jesus – He is a friend of mine

We are not too young for Jesus,  
not too young, not too young  
Not yet old enough to vote, take GCSE,  
Can't stay up all night to watch TV  
Can't drive fast, get married or fly an aeroplane  
But we can know for sure that Jesus  
loves us all just the same.

The lord loves me  
He really, really loves me.  
The Lord loves me, am  
I want you all to know (Hey)  
The Lord loves me,  
He really, really loves me.  
I am His and He is mine  
The Bible tells me so.

## CAROL: VIRGIN MARY HAD A BABY BOY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWkMzwMT5XI>

## PRAYER 2

For the gift of Jesus born in Bethlehem, thank you God  
For all the happiness of Christmas, thank you God  
For the gifts we receive, the gifts we give, thank you God  
For the love of families and friends, thank you God  
For the joy that Christmas brings, thank you God.

Gracious Father,  
We come on this happy day to thank you as we look  
forward to a very special day – the day you showed your  
love to each one of us, sending us a wonderful gift! Your  
baby son who arrived in a lowly stable with His Mum and  
Dad, after such a long journey. We thank you for sending  
love to us on that first Christmas day, so long ago. May all  
the children everywhere know you sent Jesus as a baby,

as a boy, as a man to teach us about your love for all of us.  
Help us remember you are always there for us. In Jesus'  
name, Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

*Sue Cooper/CAFOD*

God of Salvation,  
As we journey together during this time of waiting,  
move us from lives of greed and selfishness,  
from a globalised world of inequality and exploitation,  
to your Kingdom of righteousness and mercy and to a  
transformed world – where:

- peace is built on understanding not weapons
- where poor are empowered to live their lives to the full
- where businesses are built on need not greed
- and where your Creation is nurtured not abused.

Maranatha! Open our eyes to the dignity of all people  
and our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha! Let us walk in solidarity with the poor and  
cleanse our world from oppression.

Maranatha! Let us shout out for justice for all and renew  
our hope for change.

Maranatha! The Lord is coming. Let us share the Good  
News! Amen.

## CAROL: HARK THE HERALD

1. Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

2. Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

3. Come Desire of nations come  
Fix in us Thy humble home

Rise the woman's conqu'ring seed  
Bruise in us the serpent's head  
Adam's likeness now efface  
Stamp Thine image in its place  
Second Adam from above  
Reinstate us in Thy love  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

## **BENEDICTION**

ALL: God is working. Let us be ready for God's Love  
Christ is coming. Let us be ready for His Peace.  
The Spirit is with us. Let us be ready  
for transformation.

And may the Blessing of God the worker,  
Christ the redeemer, and the Spirit the sanctifier,  
rest upon us, and all those we love, today,  
through this Advent, and every day beyond.

(We sing together) Amen

## **WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

### **WHEN I THINK UPON CHRISTMAS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnCfnwKG3s8>