

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
SAWSTON**

**CRIB SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE**



OPENING CAROL: ONCE IN ROYAL

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.

I A SURPRISE VISITOR – *Introduced by Petra*

CAROL: LITTLE DONKEY

Little donkey, little donkey
On a dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With the precious load.
Been a long time little donkey
Thro' the winter's night.
Don't give up now little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow the star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.*

Little donkey, little donkey
Had a heavy day
Little donkey carry Mary
Safely on her way.

II A WORRYING ARRIVAL

CAROL: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

III SORRY, NO ROOM AT THE INN

CAROL: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

"Fear not," he said,
For mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind."

"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease

IV SOME SHEPHERDS ARE STARTLED

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

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

PRAYERS: *Concluding with the Lord's Prayer*
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

CAROL: COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

"God is with us"
Round the world the message bring
He is with us
"Welcome" all the bells on earth
are pealing

See, the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem,
Gaze in wonder
At the Son of God
who lay before them
Come and join the celebration ...

Come and join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and share our jubilation;
There's a new King born today!

BLESSING

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas
and many blessings for the New Year.

I open the stable door;
I kneel before the infant;
I worship with the shepherds;
I adore the Christ child.
I give my love with Mary and Joseph;
I wonder at the 'Word made flesh'.
I am aware of the love of God:
I sing glory with the angels;
I offer my gifts with the wise men.
I receive the living Lord;
I hold Him in my hands;
I go on my way rejoicing,
glorifying and praising God.

David Adam