

Christingle 2020

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

from 'Hush' by Lucinda Hynett

Hush now. Can you hear it?
An expectant silence,
a hushed anticipation,
as if the whole universe
were holding its breath.
Perhaps there are some truths
even the stars know,
like how the night can be a living thing.
and how once, long ago,
there was a night,
a night alive with expectation,
a night that waited in wonder
for the sound of a baby's cry,
for the miraculous
to come down
to the earth mundane.

Hymm—*See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw*

Calypso Carol

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore –
the Prince of glory is his name.

*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem,
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise,
to see the Saviour of the world!

Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem...

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby
can be the saviour of us all.

Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem...

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem...

Scripture Reading—Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn—*Away in a Manger*

Cradle Song

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.

Storytime— ‘How the Fir Tree Became the Christmas Tree’

The Origin of the Christingle Service

Hymn—*It’s Rounded like an Orange*

The Holly and the Ivy

It’s rounded like an orange
this earth on which we stand;
and we praise the God who holds it
in the hollow of his hand.

*So Father, we would thank you
for all that you have done,
and for all that you have given us
through the coming of your Son.*

A candle, burning brightly,
can cheer the darkest night,
and these candles tell how Jesus
came to bring a dark world light.

So Father, we would thank you...

The ribbon round the orange
reminds us of the cost;
how the Shepherd, strong and gentle,
gave his life to save the lost.

So Father, we would thank you...

Four seasons with their harvest
supply the food we need,
and the Spirit gives a harvest
that can make us rich indeed.

So Father, we would thank you...

We come with our Christingles
to tell of Jesus’ birth,
and we praise the God who blessed us
by his coming to this earth.

So Father, we would thank you...

Short Prayers of Thanks and Intercession

Lord Jesus, to whom the wise men gave gifts, and shepherds worshipped—
We praise and celebrate your birth at Bethlehem.
Make this a holy season for us.
Teach us to remember your birth on earth,
Shine for us as our one true light.

Prince of Peace, come into our world of troubles—
We praise and celebrate the mystery of your coming among us.
Fill us with your wonder.

Bless our hearts with the divine peace only you can give.

Christ Jesus, God's love come low to us—
We praise and celebrate your loving mercy toward us.
Help us to love our family, friends, and neighbours.
Awaken us to your joy.

Wondrous God of Christmas—
Send us your Spirit as we celebrate.
Inspire us to join with the angels
To sing your praises to the sky
And to share the good news of Christmas far and wide with joy.

Amen.

Hymn—*Joy to the World*

Antioch

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction