

# Welcome to Carols by Candlelight

2020 @ Victoria Park Baptist Church



We come together to worship GOD, who is

**FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT,**

and celebrate the coming of the LORD Jesus Christ into the world

Two readings to begin our service, from the first chapter of Luke's gospel

**68 Praise the Lord, the God of Israel!**

**He has come to save his people.**

**<sup>69</sup> Our God has given us a mighty Saviour  
from the family of David his servant.**

**<sup>77</sup> You will tell his people that they can be saved  
when their sins are forgiven.**

**<sup>78</sup> God's love and kindness will shine upon us  
like the sun that rises in the sky.**

**<sup>79</sup> On us who live  
in the dark shadow  
of death  
this light will shine  
to guide us  
into a life of peace.**

**'The Nativity'**

**<https://youtu.be/7B7lvtELiZs>**

## **Let's sing together 'Hark the herald angels sing!'**

[MENDELSSOHN-HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING - YouTube](#)

**This carol was chosen by Rosemary and Bernie. Here is what Rosemary has written about why they chose this carol.**

We love this carol because it expresses such a feeling of rejoicing in what God has done in sending Jesus. It reminds us of the shepherds – the marginalised and disdained – rejoicing with the angels bringing them the message of peace and reconciliation, a message for all nations both then and now. We can all join, silently this year, in the angels' praise for God in human form, 'veiled in flesh', pleased to live with us on Earth, as the wonderful words of Charles Wesley and the music of Mendelssohn lift our spirits.

**'Pleased as man with man to dwell**

**Jesus our Immanuel'**

**From John's gospel chapter one we read:**

**<sup>14</sup> The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.**

**Our next carol has been chosen by Chris and here she tells us why she chose it.**

**'O come O come Immanuel'**

(A carol without the nativity!)

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, because of their disobedience, the Israelites were in exile in Babylon. As displaced people they were suffering, they ached with sorrow and cried to God, they longed and yearned for God to come to them, to be with them.

At that time the prophet Isaiah told them "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel" – this was fulfilled when an angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph in a dream before Jesus' birth. (Isa 7:14 & Mat 1:23)

This carol brings to our mind the cry of the Israelites but also doubles as a prayer for the first and second coming of Jesus. Every name for Jesus in each verse is full of hope.

As Emmanuel Jesus will pay the ransom for our sins as this was accomplished at the crucifixion. (Isa 8:8)

As Wisdom on high Paul says that Christ is the power of God and the Wisdom of God. He is the source of our life and will give us the truth and knowledge about God's direction for us. (1 Cor 1:24, & 1 Cor 1:30)

As the Branch of Jesse springing from a dead stump (which was the Kingdom of David) he will give new life to Jesse's line. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy being from the line of David and make them free forever. (Isa 11:1)

As the Key of David Jesus rescues us from hell, locks the door behind us, unlocks the door of heaven and brings us home. What he shuts no one will open, what he opens no one can shut. (Isa 22:22 & Rev 3:7)

As the Desire of Nations Jesus will draw the ransomed from all races and make them a kingdom of peace, (Haggai 2:7)

In this carol we can all celebrate the birth and life of Jesus on earth, but it also encourages us to keep an eye on Jesus return.

Peter tells us that we are all in exile and Paul writes "We still wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 1 & 1 Cor 1:7)

So we sing thanking God for Emmanuel and yet still saying:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

[https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q\\_Q-4](https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q_Q-4)

**Let's pray together**

**LORD Jesus we welcome You and we worship YOU in our hearts today.**

**Thank You for Your presence with us and for Your amazing love for us and for all Your creation.**

**Help us to share Your love and compassion with others.**

**May we rejoice in You, our saviour, and worship You in our words and our actions.**

**Forgive us, LORD Jesus, when we say and do things that are hurtful or unhelpful. For You have called us by name and have redeemed us.**

**Come Lord Jesus, live in our hearts and pour out Your Spirit on us today!**

**Amen**

**Our reading is from Luke ch2:1-20 and is presented by Bernie and Rosemary**

**[http://www.vpbc.org.uk/c19/Luke Chapter 2](http://www.vpbc.org.uk/c19/Luke%20Chapter%202)**

**After the shepherds had visited her newborn baby, and told Mary and Joseph what they had seen and heard, we're told that 'Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart'.**

**The writer of this song wondered what Mary was thinking as she reflected on everything that had happened to her.**

**I love this A Cappella version by Pentatonix**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>**

**Matthew chapter 2:1-6**

**1 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."**

**<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"**

**<sup>5</sup> "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote:**

**<sup>6</sup> ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;  
for from you will come a leader  
who will guide my people Israel.’”**

**Marion told me that she enjoys singing all of the carols, but  
picked this one for this evening’s service!**

**<https://youtu.be/6D6-IHd3pUc>**

**Our next carol was voted for by the Yolo family and calls us to  
come in our imagination to Bethlehem to adore the newborn  
baby, Christ the Lord!**

**<https://youtu.be/5JyWzaCUSkk>**

**& I’ve also included another carol about the birthplace of Jesus –  
‘Royal David’s city’, This is Jure’s choice because “This song is  
about Jesus being born.”**

**<https://youtu.be/CqmQTkKBTjY>**

**Paul writes in his letter to the Galatian Church Chapter 4 <sup>4</sup> But  
when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as  
the son of a human mother and lived under the Jewish Law, <sup>5</sup> to  
redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might become  
God’s children.**

**‘Silent Night, Holy Night’ has been chosen by Becks**

**<https://youtu.be/Q2f1JK0s5E8>**

**LORD we pray for our world**

**The people of the nations, in crowded cities, towns and rural  
villages, and for those who have no place to call home.**

**For places where there is conflict and war.**

**For people who oppress others, and for those they oppress and  
persecute.**

**For those who go hungry and lack clean water, and for those who could reach out to them but don't.**

**We pray that men and women all over the earth would come to a place where they can know Your forgiveness, healing and peace, for You loved the world so much that You gave Your only Son.**

**And it's in His Name we pray. Amen**

**“O hush the noise and cease the strife, to hear the angels sing!”**

**‘It came upon a midnight clear‘**

**Geraldine Latty and Gerald Luce**

<https://youtu.be/ukGi-jx5S2M>

And may God bless you and yours with His peace this Christmas and in the year ahead.

Amen

I'd like to finish with a video I'm sure many will have seen before but which I love, as it demonstrates that we can, and should be praising and honouring God with all our lives 'on the street corners and in the market place' as it were!

Happy Christmas!

<https://youtu.be/SXh7JR9oKVE>