

# Christmas Carol Song Sheets

All songs are from the public domain. Every effort was made to choose verses and lyrics that are most common in parish songbooks.

[www.christmascarolfestival.com](http://www.christmascarolfestival.com)



## 1. 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 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 thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

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.

*Late 1800s American cradle hymn about every sleepy parent's ideal newborn.*

## 2. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold!  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats,  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing.  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds,  
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years,  
Shall come the time foretold;  
When peace shall over all the earth,  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song,  
Which now the angels sing.

*Written by a Pilgrim's descendant in 1849, it is unusual for its theme of international peace.*

## 3. Joy to the World

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 Savior reigns;  
Let men 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.

*An explosion of praise attributed to a great hymn composer, written in 1719 in the style of Psalm 98.*

## 4. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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 host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Several composers, including the founder of Dartmouth College and Charles Wesley contributed to this hymn.*

## 5. Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

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.*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God. Glory in the highest.

Adeste Fideles, Laeti triumphantes,  
Venite, venite in Bethlehem,  
Natum videte Regem Angelorum:  
Venite adoremus, Venite adoramus,  
Venite adoremus Dominus.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing.

*Invitation to Bethlehem composed in the 1740s.  
Suitable for "Jesus Parade" while placing Jesus  
in a family nativity scene on Christmas.*

## 6. Silent Night

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 alleluia;  
Christ the Savior, is born!  
Christ the Savior, 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.

*The most recorded song in history by a minister visiting  
a newborn in 1818. Later, in 1914, WWI soldiers rose from  
their trenches to cross a field strewn with barbed wire and  
frozen corpses to share in a spontaneous Christmas Eve  
celebration ending in "Silent Night."*

## 7. Oh 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.

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 men on earth.

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 in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

*An American poem from Philadelphia inspired  
by a dream and a trip to Bethlehem in 1868.*

## 8. We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh,  
Prayer and praising all men raising,  
Worship Him, God on high.

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume  
Breaths a life of gathering gloom,  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Earth to the heavens replies.

*Written in 1857 as a Christmas gift to a minister's  
nieces and nephews and used during the Epiphany  
while doorways are marked with Magi's initials*

## 9. What Child is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant king to own Him,  
The King of kings, salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.



*Greensleeves tune (1500s) with lyrics that were  
given the title, "Manger Throne".*

## 10. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-Spring, from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight!

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Key of David come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind:  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself our Prince of Peace.

*8<sup>th</sup> century Latin tune using titles for Jesus. It is a  
Gregorian chant and also the most popular Advent song.*



## 11. Angels We Have Heard on High

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?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

See him in a manger laid  
Whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While we raise our hearts in love.

*14<sup>th</sup> century French melody using the Gloria, and  
a "Macaronic Hymn" of Latin and the vernacular*

## 12. Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas,  
my true love gave to me (God)  
A partridge in a pear tree. (Jesus)

2 turtle doves (Old, New Testament)  
3 French hens, (faith, hope, charity)  
4 calling birds, (four Gospels)  
5 golden rings, (first 5 books Bible)  
6 geese a-laying, (days of creation)  
7 swans a-swimming, (gifts of Holy Spirit)  
8 maids a-milking, (8 Beatitudes)  
9 ladies dancing, (fruits of Spirit)  
10 lords a-leaping (10 commandments)  
11 pipers piping, (11 faithful disciples)  
12 drummers drumming, (beliefs in Creed)

*French tune from 1700's – a catechism song. Consider  
dividing people into 12 groups and assigning animal  
sounds or movements for the verses.*

## 13. The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they  
lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far,  
To seek a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

The star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Then let us all with one accord,  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
Who with the Father we adore,  
And with the Spirit blest for evermore.

*Anonymous English folk tune from 1500s*

## 14. There Was a Little Baby

There was a little baby, oh my Lord.  
There was a little baby, oh my Lord.  
There was a little baby, oh my Lord,  
Way down in Bethlehem, way down in  
Bethlehem.

They laid him in a manger, oh my Lord.  
They laid him in a manger, oh my Lord.  
They laid him in a manger, oh my Lord,  
Way down in Bethlehem, way down in  
Bethlehem.

Shepherds gave him presents, oh my Lord.  
Wise men gave him presents, oh my Lord.  
And we can give him presents, oh my Lord,  
Way down in Bethlehem, way down in...

***Additional verses –repeat each line 3X***  
Way down in Bethlehem, way down in  
Bethlehem.

So, happy birthday, Jesus, oh my Lord...  
Sing, "Alleluia, Jesus, **you're** my Lord"...  
They named the baby, oh my Lord...  
His mother's name was Mary, oh my Lord...  
Angels sang to Jesus, oh my Lord...  
The cow sang "Moo" to Jesus, oh my Lord...  
The sheep sang Baa" to Jesus, oh my Lord...  
His birthday was on Christmas, oh my Lord...  
So, help me find your stable, oh my Lord...

*Children's song of unknown origin, first 3 verses  
recorded by Raffi, more verses and movements  
by Therese Boucher on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).*



*If you have enjoyed singing these  
carols, please join us at your local  
church on Christmas Day. We need  
your voice and your smiling face  
among us!*

## 15. Come Thou Long- Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine own sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Written by Charles Wesley in 1744.*

## Prayer Before a Manger

Jesus, I am as empty as this manger. I  
place all the dark and lonely corners of  
my soul into your hands. I give you  
all the things that keep me from  
finding you. Help me wait for your  
presence. Help me surrender all of  
my emptiness to you, as I watch  
for the Christmas star. Be born in  
my heart once again. Amen.

*(Therese Boucher)*