

# **Watchnight Service**

**Hail the victorious Son!**  
**Rev Nathan Owens**

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth;  
Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King:  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light;  
Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King:  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen His natal star;  
Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King:  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.**

**Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly, the Lord, descending,  
in His temple shall appear;  
Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King:  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.**

**Sinners, brought to true repentance,  
bound by sin to endless pains,  
justice now revokes the sentence,  
mercy calls you – break your chains;  
Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King:  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King**

**James Montgomery, 1777-1854**

**All words reproduced under CCLI no 293885**

# Prayer

**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 Immanuel.**

**Philips Brooks, 1835-93**

**All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.**

**He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”**

**10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**<sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent,  
“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,**

## Genesis 3:1-15

**and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.**

**<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between  
you and the woman,  
and between your  
offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his  
heel.”**

**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 men,  
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.**

**But with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angel sing.**

**For, lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the Age of Gold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

**Edmond Hamilton Sears, 1810-76 All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885**

## Luke 2:8-14

**8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

**9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.**

## Luke 2:8-14

**<sup>10</sup> 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.**

**<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.**

## Luke 2:8-14

**<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,**

## Luke 2:8-14

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

**Still the night! Holy the night!  
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,  
sleeping in heavenly rest;  
sleeping in heavenly rest.**

**Still the night! Holy the night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,  
far and near, the angel-song,  
'Christ the Redeemer is here!  
Christ the Redeemer is here!'**

**Still the night! Holy the night!  
Son of God, O how bright.  
Love is smiling from Thy face!  
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since Thou art born!  
Saviour, since Thou art born!**

**Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848**

**All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**Then I saw a new heaven  
and a new earth, for the  
first heaven and the first  
earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.**

## Revelation 21:1-7

**<sup>7</sup> The one who conquers  
will have this heritage,  
and I will be his God  
and he will be my son.**

**God rest you merry, gentlemen  
let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save poor souls from Satan's power  
when we had gone astray,  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy!**

Women

**From God that is our Father,  
the blessed Angels came  
unto some certain shepherds  
with tidings of the same;  
that there was born in Bethlehem,  
the Son of God by name.**

All

**And it's tidings of comfort and joy.**

Men

**Go, fear not, said God's Angels,  
let nothing you affright,  
for there is born in Bethlehem,  
of a pure Virgin bright,  
one able to advance you,  
and throw down Satan quite.**

All

**And it's tidings of comfort and joy.**

All

The shepherds at those tidings,  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding  
in tempest storms of wind,  
and strait they came to Bethlehem,  
the Son of God to find.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

Women

**Now when they came to Bethlehem,  
where our sweet Saviour lay,  
they found Him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay,  
the blessed Virgin kneeling down,  
unto the Lord did pray.**

All

**And it's tidings of comfort and joy.**

Men

**With sudden joy and gladness,  
the shepherds were beguil'd,  
to see the Babe of Israel,  
before His mother mild,  
on them with joy and cheerfulness,  
rejoice each mother's child.**

All

**And it's tidings of comfort and joy.**

All

**Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
like we true loving brethren,  
each other to embrace,  
for the merry time of Christmas,  
is drawing on a-pace.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.**

Traditional

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence  
no. 293885



# Hail the Victorious Son

**Prayer**

**Christians awake, salute the happy morn,  
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love,  
which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son:**

**Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the angelic herald's voice,  
    'Behold  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
to you and all the nations upon earth;  
    this day hath God  
    fulfilled His promised word,  
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'**

**He spake;  
and straightaway the heav'nly choir,  
in hymns of joy unknown before, conspire.  
The praises of redeeming love they sang,  
and heaven's whole orb  
with hallelujahs rang;  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
peace upon earth, and mutual goodwill.**

**To Bethlehem straight  
the enlightened shepherds ran,  
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,  
and found,  
with Joseph and the blessed Maid,  
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;  
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,  
the first apostles of His infant fame.**

**Like Mary, let us ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love  
in saving lost mankind;  
trace we the Babe,  
who has retrieved our loss,  
from His poor manger to His bitter Cross;  
treading His steps, assisted by His grace,  
till man's first heavenly state  
again takes place.**

**Then may we hope,  
the angelic thrones among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all His glory shall display;  
saved by His love, incessant we shall sing  
of angels and of angel men the King.**

**John Byrom, 1691-1763**

All words reproduced under CCLI no 293885

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all.  
Amen.**