

This Run-of-the-Show document is provided as a reference tool. The Congregation will follow along in the 22-page *Lessons and Carols* booklet provided. Lectors may want to read their parts directly from the *Lessons and Carols* booklet. The Narrator may prefer to read from the *Script* document.

Nine Lessons And Carols

Run of the Show



~~Scripture Readings and Christmas Carols~~

The page is not read. The service begins with a song, “Once in Royal David’s City on the next page.

~~During Christmastime, we are delighted to again hear the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to travel to Bethlehem and see this wonderful thing which has changed mankind forever, the Babe lying in a manger.~~

~~Let us now read the Holy Scripture, the story of the loving purposes of God, from the first sin to the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.~~

Start

Once in Royal David's City

Music by H.J. Gaubtlett
Words by C.F. Alexander



All Sing:

1. Once in roy - al Dav - vid's
Where a mo - ther laid her
2. He came down to earth from
And His shel - ter was a
3. And through all His won - drous
Love and watch the gen - tle



ci - ty Stood a low - ly ca - ttle shed.
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed.
hea - ven Who is God and Lord of all;
sta - ble And His cra - dle was a stall:
child - hood He would hon - or and o - bey,
mo - ther In whose gen - tle arms He lay:



1. Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild,
2. With the poor and mean and low - ly
3. Chris - tian chil - dren all should be



Je - sus Christ her li - tle child.
Lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
Kind, o - be - dient good as He.

GATHERING PRAYER

NARRATOR:

Let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and fellowship and forgiveness and joy within the Church He came to build, and especially among us gathered here.

And let us remember, the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the sad, the lonely, and the unloved. We pray that they can discover the peace that Jesus brings to our hearts.

May Almighty God bless us with His grace and grant us the joys of everlasting life. Amen.



All Sing:

**O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.**

**A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn.**

**Fall on your knees,
O hear the angels' voices,
O night divine, O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night,
O night divine.**

NARRATOR 2:

The First Lesson: The promise of a redeemer was present from the beginning

The story of Christmas really begins in the Book of Genesis.

In this passage,
the works of the devil are seen in the actions of the *snake*
who is tempting human beings
to turn against God.

And Jesus Christ himself can be seen in this story,
in the *offspring* of the woman.

So taken together
this passage can be understood to be
the very first promise of a Redeemer
for a sinful mankind.

Lois Weber:

A reading from the book of Genesis.

**Now the snake was
the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made.
He asked the woman,**

**“Did God really say,
‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden’?”**

The woman answered the snake:

**“We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden
that God said,**

‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”

But the snake said to the woman:

**“You certainly will not die!
God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened
and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”**

**The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes,
and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom.**

**So she took some of its fruit and ate it;
and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they knew that they were naked;
so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.**

**When they heard the sound of the LORD God
walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day,
the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God
among the trees of the garden.**

The LORD God then called to the man and asked him:

“Where are you?”

He answered,

**“I heard you in the garden;
but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”**

Then God asked:

**“Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?”**

The man replied,

**“The woman whom you put here with me—
she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”**

The LORD God then asked the woman:

“What is this you have done?”

The woman answered,

“The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the snake:

**“Because you have done this, cursed are you
among all the animals, tame or wild;**

**On your belly you shall crawl,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.**

**I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;**

**They will strike at your head,
While you strike at their heel.”**

“The word of the Lord.”

Genesis 3: 1-15



All Sing:

**Hark! The herald angels sing!
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the favored one.
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, th' incarnate Deity:**

**Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

NARRATOR:

The Second Lesson: Isaiah's prophesy of a new-born king is fulfilled in Jesus Christ

In this reading,
the prophet Isaiah addresses a people who are gloomy,
who walk in darkness.

Isaiah was encouraging the people
with the promise that God will give them a new king, who would
drive out their enemies
and unite them.

For us, with the benefit of hindsight,
there is a deeper meaning,
which is especially meaningful at Christmas.

Our Christian tradition understands
that this Prince of Peace in Isaiah's prophecy
is none other than Jesus the Christ
who proclaims himself "the Light of the World."

Paula Penepent:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

**The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing;
They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest,
as they exult when dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
The rod of their taskmaster,
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for fire.
For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor,**

**God-Hero,
Father-Forever,
Prince of Peace.**

**His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!**

"The word of the Lord."

—Isaiah 9:1-6

All Sing:



**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.**



NARRATOR:

The Third Lesson: Isaiah stirs hope for a just leader from the descendants of King David

Before David was king,
he was chosen for his role from among his brothers,
who were all sons of a man named Jesse in the town of Bethlehem.
So when Isaiah speaks of a shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse,
he means a new king who is a descendent of Jesse and King David.
Isaiah says from the stump that remains from the family tree of Jesse,
there will indeed be new growth:
A promising shoot that will grow and blossom,
producing a wise, and strong, and glorious leader,
who will finally bring peace and justice to his people.

Reader 3:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

**But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.
Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
But he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide fairly for the land's afflicted.
He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.
Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
together their young shall lie down;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the viper's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.
They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain;**

**for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,
as water covers the sea.**

**On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the peoples—
Him the nations will seek out;
His dwelling shall be glorious.**

Isaiah 11:1-10

“The word of the Lord.”

All Sing:

**♪ 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, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**



NARRATOR:

The Fourth Lesson: Jeremiah predicts the rise of a just shepherd

Jeremiah was a prophet that lived about seven centuries before Christ. He preached that the people of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, needed and deserved better leadership.

In this reading, Jeremiah predicts the rise of a new and good shepherd of the people in the family line of King David.

We here today have the benefit of knowing about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, who suffered and died so that the Israelites, and indeed the people of all nations could be saved from the consequences of their sinfulness.

This is the Jesus who we celebrate at Christmas.

Reader 4:

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

**See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD —
when I will raise up a righteous branch for David;
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name to be given him:
“The LORD our justice.”
Therefore, the days are coming—oracle of the LORD —
when they shall no longer say,
“As the LORD lives,
who brought the Israelites
out of the land of Egypt”;
but rather,
“As the LORD lives,
who brought the descendants of the house of Israel
up from the land of the north”—
and from all the lands to which I banished them;
they shall again live on their own soil.**

“The word of the Lord.”

—Jeremiah 23:5-8



All Sing:

♪ **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!**

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

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



NARRATOR:

The Fifth Lesson: With great faith, Mary says *yes*, for nothing is impossible for God

The Angel Gabriel appeared Mary
with some glorious and probably overwhelming news:
God sent his messenger to Mary
to invite her to become
the mother of the Savior.

Showing great faith, she said *yes*.

Mary was able to do so because she believed
that “Nothing is impossible for God.”

Nancy Palumbo:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David,
and the virgin’s name was Mary.**

And coming to her, he said,

“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

**But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.**

Then the angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

**Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.**

**He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

But Mary said to the angel,

“How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”*

And the angel said to her in reply,

“The holy Spirit will come upon you,

and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,

has also conceived a son in her old age,

and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;

for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said,

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.”

Then the angel departed from her.

“The Gospel of the Lord.”



Luke 1: 26-38

HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN

Carey Landry

Intro: Cantor

Cantor Sings:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women and
blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death. Amen.

All Sing:

Refrain: All

Gen-tle wom-an, qui-et light, morn-ing
star, so strong and bright, gen-tle
Moth-er, peace-ful dove, teach us
wis-dom; teach us love.

Verses: All

1. You were cho - sen by the Fa-ther;
2. Bless-ed are you a-mong wom-en,
1. you were cho - sen for the Son. You were Bless-ed
2. blest in turn all wom-en, too.
1. cho - sen from all wom-en and for Bless-ed
2. they with peace - ful spir - its.
1. wom - an, shin - ing one.
2. they with gen - tle hearts.

Text based on Luke 1:28. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry and NALR.
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NARRATOR:

The Sixth Lesson: Jesus – the Savior, Messiah, and Lord of *all* – is born in Bethlehem

Luke’s basic message of the Infancy narrative
is contained in the angel’s announcement to the shepherds
that Jesus is

savior,
and Messiah,
and Lord.

As savior, Jesus rescues humanity from sin.

As Messiah, Jesus is the one who now brings salvation
to *all* humanity, whether Jew or Gentile.

As Lord, Jesus is God, who has dominion over humanity.

For all of us gathered here, a savior has been born, who is Messiah and Lord.

Michelle Jankowski:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus
that the whole world should be enrolled.**

This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

**And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea,
to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,
because he was of the house and family of David,
to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.**

**While they were there, the time came for her to have her child,
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.**

**She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**Now there were shepherds in that region
living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock.**

**The angel of the Lord appeared to them
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were struck with great fear.**

The angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid; for behold,

**I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.**

**For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Messiah and Lord.**

And this will be a sign for you:

**you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger.”**

**And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:**

**“Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

**When the angels went away from them to heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,**

**“Let us go, then,
to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.”**

**So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the infant lying in the manger.**

When they saw this,

**they made known the message that had been told them about this child.
All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.**

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

Luke 2: 1-18



All Sing:

**♪ 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.**

NARRATOR:

Seventh Lesson: The magi honor a newborn king, while Herod is worried about a new rival

The magi came to Jerusalem to honor what appeared to be a newborn king.

King Herod, and indeed all of Jerusalem,
were troubled by this news of a newborn king.

According to a Jewish legend about the child Moses,
some sacred scribes warned *Pharaoh* about
the imminent birth of one
who would deliver the Israelites from *Egypt*.
A worried *Pharaoh* then made plans to destroy the child.

King Herod apparently had similar concerns about this newborn king.

Reader 7:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,**

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

**When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.**

**Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.**

They said to him,

“In Bethlehem of Judea,

for thus it has been written through the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

since from you shall come a ruler,

who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod called the magi secretly

and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said,

“Go and search diligently for the child.

When you have found him, bring me word,

that I too may go and do him homage.”

After their audience with the king they set out.

**And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.**

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

—Matthew 2:1-12

All Sing:

♪ **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.**

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



NARRATOR:

The Eighth Lesson: Jesus, the Word, the Creator, the Light of the Human Race, is eternal

In this passage, St. John calls Jesus “the Word”
and presents Him

as eternal,
as creator,
as the true light which enlightens each of us.

Jesus was not created.

He always existed.

Jesus *is* the creator.

Through Him all things were made.

Jesus is the true light.

He shines through
the darkness of fear,
the darkness of ignorance, and
the darkness of sin.

Reader 8:

A reading from the beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.**

**What came to be
through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

A man named John was sent from God.

**He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.**

He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.**

**He came to what was his own,
but his own people* did not accept him.**

**But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.**

**And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.**

"The Gospel of the Lord."

John 1:1-14

All Sing:

♩ **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 in the highest:
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**



NARRATOR:

The Ninth Lesson: The followers of Jesus are commissioned to make disciples of all

This passage from the end of the Gospel according to Matthew is about the risen Jesus commissioning the eleven Apostles to make disciples of all nations.

It has an important message for all of us, especially at Christmas: Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, remains with us, always.

So, as we continue the mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others, we can take comfort in the fact that Jesus is with us, and will *help* us in accomplishing His work.

Reader 9:

A reading from end of the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.

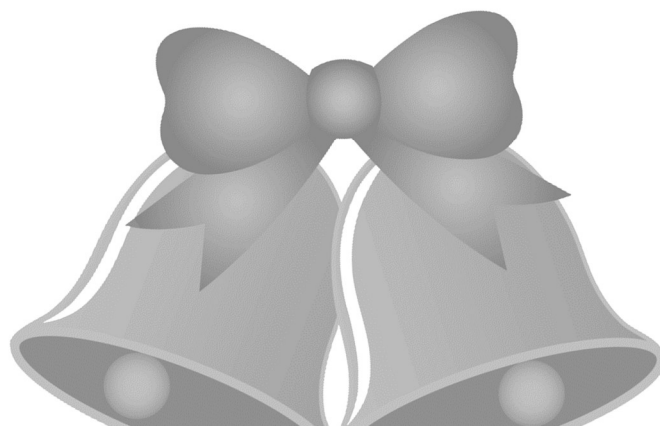
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

Matthew 28:16-20



All Sing:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and



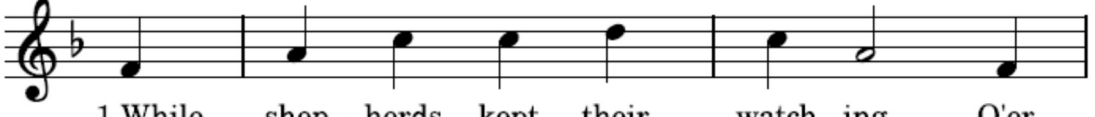
ev - 'ry-where Go tell it on the moun - tain That

Fine

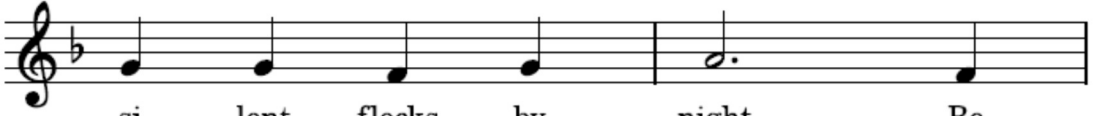


Je - sus Christ is born.

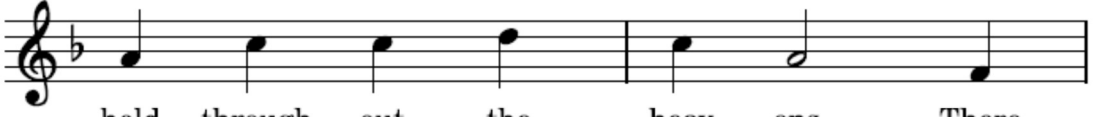
Verses



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing O'er
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled When
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The



si - lent flocks by night, Be -
high a - bove the earth Rang
hum - ble Christ was born, And



hold, through - out the heav - ens There
out the an - gel cho - rus That
God sent is sal - va - tion That



shone a ho - ly light.
hailed our Sav - iors birth.
bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

NARRATOR:

(Thanks to Lectors.)

(Merry Christmas on behalf of the Knights of Columbus.)

(All are invited to now join us in Walter Hall for a Christmas celebration.)

End

Sponsored by
~~Christ the King of East Aurora Council #12829~~
~~Knights of Columbus~~