

The Bells of Christmas: A Family Christmas Program



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-494-3090
www.stmatthewsva.org

WELCOME



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.

Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

L. We are gathered in your name, O Lord, to worship you—to celebrate the good news.

C: Sound the bells! The Savior's born!

L. When the time had come, you announced to the shepherds the joyous news, sending wise men a sign of the miraculous birth.

C: Sound the bells! The Savior's born!

L. Now the message has circled the globe, touching people of every age, every race. Today we praise your name in grateful thanksgiving for the greatest gift of all.

C: Sound the bells! The Savior's born!

HYMN: Angels, from the Realms of Glory # 275 Verses 1 and 2



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

L In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin. The virgin's name was Mary. The virgin was engaged to a

man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The angel said “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will bear a son and you will name him Jesus.

L. To Joseph the angel said “Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you will name him Jesus, And Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

(Wedding bells ring) (bell choir bells)

L. A family is ready to receive our Lord!

HYMN: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly # 276 Verses 1 and 2



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

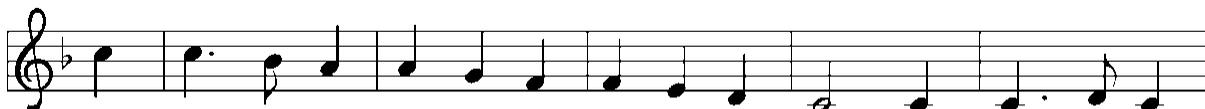
Cowbells ring

L. Hold it! Hold it! That sounds like a cowbell! Ringing a cowbell doesn't seem to be the proper way to announce the birth of God's son!

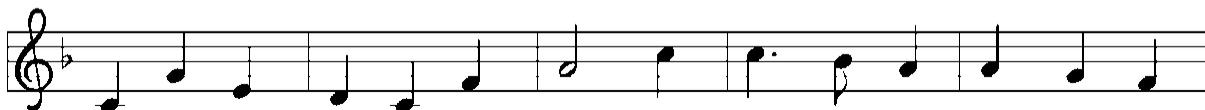
L. The cowbells stand for the place where Jesus was born; in a humble stable, with only cows and sheep looking on.

Cowbells ring!

HYMN: Away in a Manger # 277 Verses 1-3



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Dinner bells are sounded (triangle)

L. That sounds like a dinner bell!

L. That is a dinner bell!

L. A dinner bell calls workers in from the fields. That's what the angel did! The angel called shepherds in from the fields.

HYMN: O Come All Ye Faithful # 283 Verses 1 and 3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Angel bells (chimes)

L. What is that sound I hear?

L. That's probably what the shepherds asked, too! When they heard the angels singing songs of praise on that first Christmas, they probably asked, what is that sound?

HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing # 270 Verses 1-3



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



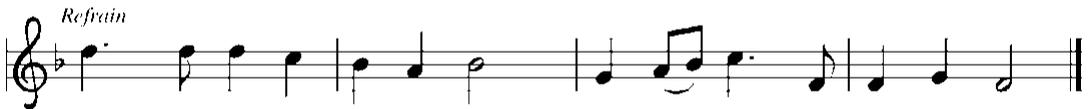
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die.



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN. Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Town Crier: Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye! (*rings the school bell*)

L. What are you doing?

Town Crier: My job is to spread the news. Years ago, this is how important information was shared with everyone in town.

L. What news do you spread?

Town Crier: The best news! Jesus is Born! It wasn't a town crier who first spread the good news, it was the shepherds who first spread the good news of Jesus' birth.

HYMN: Go Tell It on the Mountain # 290 Verses 1-3

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Lamb bells ring (jingle bells)

- L. Little lambs can wear these bells for the shepherd hears and tells.
When the lambs have gone astray, then the shepherd shows the way.
Sheep, sound your bells! Let them ring loud and clear!
Christ our Good Shepherd, loves everyone here!

Sing: **Ring, Ring, Ring the bells (in cannon).**
Ring, ring, ring the bells. Ring them loud and clear.
To tell the children everywhere that Christmas time is near.

L The story has been shared again. But will it stay within these walls? NO! Take the message with you! Spread it throughout our community . . . throughout our world!

L. The Savior's born!

C: Sound the bells!

L. The Lord is with us!

C: Sound the bells!

L. Our lives ring with joy!

C: Sound the bells!

CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the World

267 Verses 1 and 2



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

(all bells ring!)



You are invited to join us for worship through Advent and Christmas!

Wednesday, December 22nd, at 7pm
A contemplative Advent Service

Sundays at 10am
Advent Services of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 7pm and 10pm
Candlelight services of Holy Communion with a reception in between

Sunday, December 26th, 10:00am, A Service of Lessons and Carols –
The Story of the Birth of Jesus Christ

Sunday services and Christmas Eve 7pm are live streamed.
Find all Advent and Christmas details at
www.stmatthewsva.org/Christmas

You are most welcome to join worship
and celebrate this special time of year!



Plan to join us for Sunday school classes at St. Matthew's in 2022! There will be weekly classes for ages PreK-Adult beginning January 9th on Sunday mornings from 11:15-noon. For more information, please check the Faith Formation page on our website (www.stmatthewsva.org/faithformation) or contact Gretchen Wilcox at gretchenwilcox@verizon.net.

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Looking ahead: Children's Choirs will begin in March!  
Stay "tuned" for more information!



St. Matthew's Day School Registration for the 2022-23 school year will open to the community on Friday, February 4, 2022!

Visit [www.DaySchool.us](http://www.DaySchool.us) for more information.  
Email [director@stmatthewsva.org](mailto:director@stmatthewsva.org)  
or call 703.494.3090 to arrange a visit.

