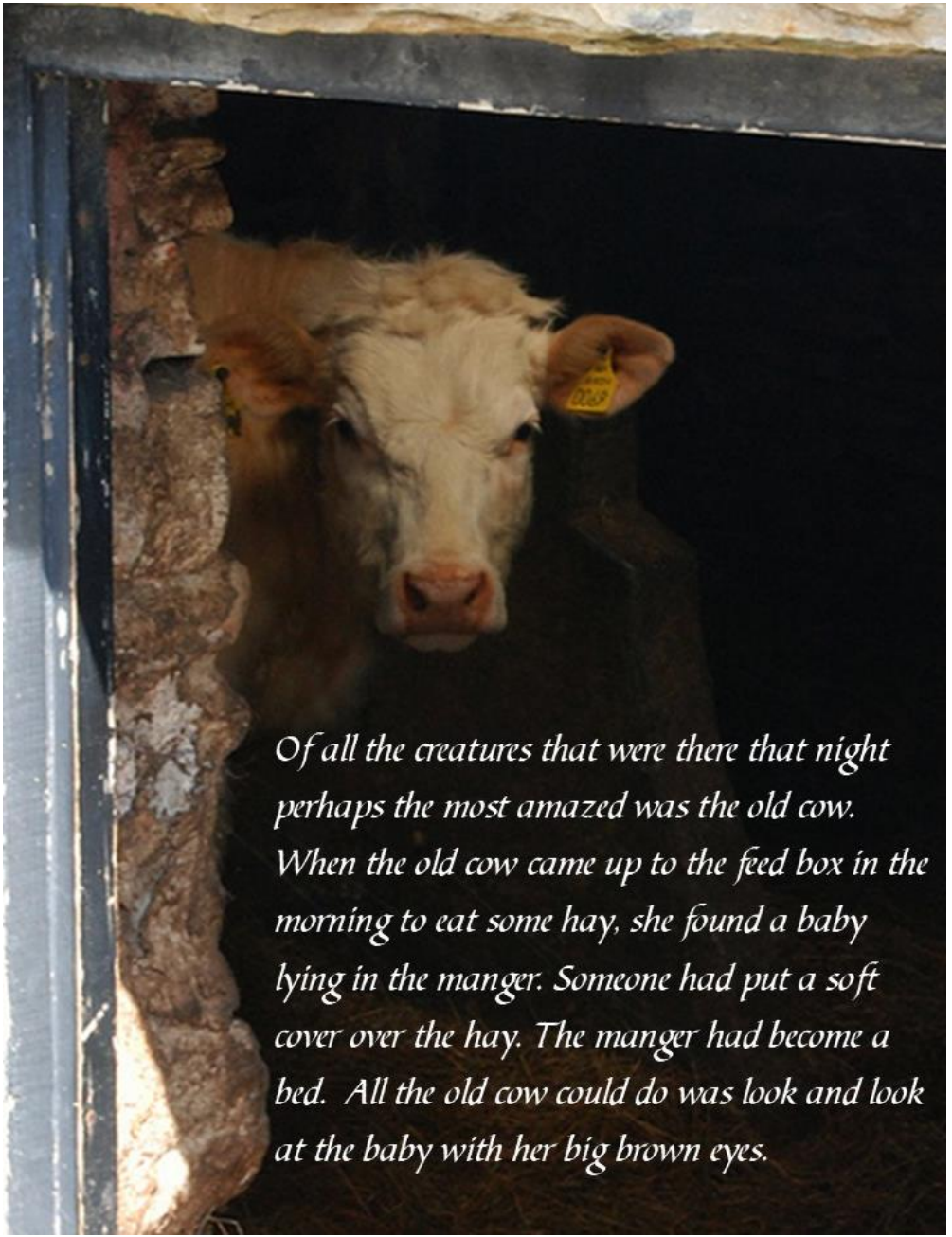


St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke
A Family Christmas in Story and Song, Dec. 25, 2020



Of all the creatures that were there that night perhaps the most amazed was the old cow. When the old cow came up to the feed box in the morning to eat some hay, she found a baby lying in the manger. Someone had put a soft cover over the hay. The manger had become a bed. All the old cow could do was look and look at the baby with her big brown eyes.

Welcome

Christmas Responses

A boy has been born for us;

A child has been given to us.

And his name shall be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.

Once we were no people;

Now we are God's people.

Once we walked in darkness;

Now we have seen a great light.

Carol 118 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* v. 1, 3, 5

1. **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;**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:**

Refrain

5. **Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.**

Refrain

Prayer for Christmas Morning

Son of Mary, Son of God,

may we, for whom the heavens have opened
never lose that heavenly vision.

May we, who like the shepherds,

Have seen in your birth a new kind of love,

Witness to that love in our lives.

continues....!

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant saviour,
baby who makes every birth holy.
May we, who like the shepherds
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love
return to our work with joy.
May we, for whom the heavens have opened
to proclaim that God is with us,
we who have fed on living bread
and drunk the wine of heaven,
go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day.

Father and Mother of all,
the child born for us is the Saviour of the world.
May the One who made us your children
welcome us into your kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.
Amen.

Carol 123 *Once in Royal David's City*

1. **Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
2. **He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**
3. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.**

Carol 126 *Away in a Manger*

1. **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus – look down from on high
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

Carol 125 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

1. **Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**
2. **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet tomorrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.**

Carol 122 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

1. In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.

4. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him –
give my heart.

Christmas Intercessions

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.
You crept in beside us.
And no one knew.
Only the few who dared to believe
that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Will you come into the darkness of today's world;
not the friendly darkness
as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,
but the fearful darkness,
in which people have stopped believing
that war will end
or that food will come
or that a government will change
or that the Church cares?

Will you come into that darkness
and do something different
to save your people from death and despair?

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Will you come into the quietness of this city,
not the friendly quietness
as when lovers hold hands,
but the fearful silence
when the phone has not rung,
the letter has not come,
the friendly voice no longer speaks,
the doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness,
And do something different,
not to distract, but to embrace your people?

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

And will you come into the dark corners
and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden
or want to be,
but because the fullness our lives long for
depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you
as you were to us,
when you came,
wearing no more than diapers,
and trusting human hands
to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives,
if we open them to you
and do something different?

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

When the world was dark
and the city was quiet
you came.

You crept in beside us.

Do the same this Christmas, Lord.
Do the same this Christmas. **Amen.**

Carol 148 *See Amid the Winter's Snow* v.1, 2, 5

1. **See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years!**

Refrain

**Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

2. **Lo, within a manger lies
he who build the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim**

Refrain

5. **Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!**

Refrain

Christmas Blessing

May Christ our infant saviour
give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds,
the awe of the worshipping sages
and the humility and love of the holy family.
May you become as little children
And the blessing of God our Creator,
Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always.

Amen.

Christmas Responses & Intercessions (WGWG)
Prayer for Christmas Morning & Blessing (A New Zealand Prayer Book)
Christmas Carols Texts all Public Domain
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