

Please remain seated throughout and join in with the words printed in bold.

WELCOME

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth.

Jesus is the light of the world.

With Jesus there is light even in dark places.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus brings us out of darkness to live in his amazing light.

Jesus is the light of the world.

The central candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

CAROL

**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.**

**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 needy, poor and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Mary and the Angel (from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 1, verses 26-38)

CAROL

**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 street shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth;
for Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love;**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

The Emperor Issues a Decree (from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2, verses 1-5)



CAROL

Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road,
got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey, through the winter's night;
don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day,
little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.



Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem (from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2, verses 6-7)

CAROL

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.

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 side until 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels (from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2, verses 8-20)

CAROL

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

“To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:

The heav’nly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.



All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace,
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to all
begin and never cease."

The Wise Men Come from the East (from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 1-12)

CAROL

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

The story continues to conclusion.

PRAYERS

CAROL

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.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him, ... Christ the Lord.

Lo, star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:
O come, let us adore him, ... Christ the Lord .

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest: *O come, let us adore him, ... Christ the Lord.*

BLESSING



Happy Christmas to you all!

There will be an opportunity to contribute to the work here at Hexham Abbey. There are collection points at both exits (please use the Gift Aid envelopes if possible), a contactless payment machine by the main entrance and you can donate by scanning the QR code.



Thank you!

Hexham Abbey for Children & Young People

On Wednesdays at 9.30am pre-school aged children and their carers meet in the Abbey for **Tots' Praise** which is a time for activity songs, stories, bubble prayers and crafts. Come and join us. **Messy Church** meet on the third Sunday of the month at 3pm for crafts, songs, stories, refreshments and fun! (The next Messy Church will be on 16th January in the Abbey). On Sundays, **Cloister Club** meets during the main 10am Service. The children can engage in activities and stories relevant to them. All free and everyone is welcome!

Hexham Abbey Choirs

An incredible opportunity for you, your son or your daughter, your grandchildren ... First-rate musical education, concerts, tours to foreign countries and many other exciting occasions are on offer, alongside the high-quality singing at the Abbey's regular and special services. - Please contact Michael Haynes, Director of Music via directorofmusic@hexhamabbey.org.uk



There is a loop induction system in the Abbey if you use a hearing aid (turn to the 'T' setting).

Toilets are available in the Priory Buildings, accessed via the Cloister Porch – just follow the signs from there.

In case of an emergency requiring evacuation of the building, see the instructions on the walls/pillars – again Stewards will guide you if this is the case.

Wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas.

