

WORSHIP RESOURCE

December 24, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

THE FIRST NOEL

Traditional English Carol, 1833

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the East beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continues both day and night.

Then let us all in one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord, that hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought.

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

English Carol, 18th Century

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

"Fear not, then" said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

Traditional English Carol | English Melody, 16th Century

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.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, 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.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

Words and Music by Tim Hughes, 2000

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down.

*Here I am to say that You're my God. You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.

Humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 24; Genesis 3:8-15; Revelation 12:1-10; John 3:16-21

MONDAY | Ps. 40; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Titus 1:1-16; Luke 1:1-25

TUESDAY | Ps. 33; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Titus 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 17; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8; Luke 1:39-56

THURSDAY | Ps. 62; 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Galatians 3:1-14; Luke 1:57-66

FRIDAY | Ps. 148; Jeremiah 31:10-14; Galatians 3:15-22; Matt. 1:1-17

SATURDAY | Ps. 149; Isaiah 60:1-6; Galatians 3:23-4:7; Matt. 1:18-25

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, like Mary, we are often perplexed and ponder the mystery of your birth. How could it be that the God of the universe took on flesh and dwelt among us? How could it be that a virgin was pregnant with a child conceived by the Holy Spirit? O Lord, may we be strengthened by the gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed. Help us to share this good news with family, friends, and neighbors, and may you receive all glory and praise, for your throne and your kingdom are established forever. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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