

St. Luke's Table

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE ABCs of CHRISTMAS

I bring you good news
of a great joy which will come
to all the people;
for to you is born this day
a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.10–11



Opening Hymn: The Wise May Bring Their Learning

**The wise may bring their learning
The rich may bring their wealth
And some may bring their greatness
And some bring strength and health
We too would bring our treasures
To offer to the king
We have no wealth or learning
What shall we children bring**

**We'll bring him hearts that love him
We'll bring him thankful praise
And young souls meekly striving
To walk in holy ways
And these shall be the treasures
We offer to the king
And these are gifts that even
The poorest child may bring**

**We'll bring the little duties
We have to do each day
We'll try our best to please him
At home at school at play
And better are these treasures
To offer to our king
Than richest gifts without them
Yet these a child may bring**

Greeting:

This night the TRUE Light arrives

This night, the light shines brightest.

The Light of Peace has come.

The Light of Hope has come.

The Light of Joy has come.

The Light of Love has come.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Let us kindle the light of the Lord!



The Christ Candle is Lit

We will now share with you
The Christmas Story,
using the Alphabet and
music!

*We are grateful for the inspiration to share
the ABCs of Christmas, created by Erin Klassen,
who is in Team Ministry at Deer Park United Church in Calgary, Alberta.*



A is for an **angel**, GABRIEL, who began the story with a greeting:

“Good Evening! You are beautiful with God’s beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you!”

Luke 1: 28 The Message

B is for **Bethlehem**, where our story takes place.
People traveled from far and wide to arrive in the city.
It was a very busy place.

C is for **census** (that's a counting of all the people)
and the reason so many people filled the city
of Bethlehem.

D is for **donkey** that carried a family on their long journey to Bethlehem to be counted.



E is for **exhausted**, that's how everyone felt when they arrived ~ tired from all the travelling.

F is for **family** (Mary, Joseph, and their new baby, Baby Jesus), who was born that night in Bethlehem.



Gradual Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

G is for **Good** News about to be shared with all the earth. This is what was said

Reverend Jerry proclaims the Gospel:
Luke 2: 8-16

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

H is for **herds**, all the animals that were present in the stable, and the flocks of sheep in the field with the shepherds when they heard the Good News.



Blessing of the Creche

**Loving God,
we come before you in wonder and awe.
We thank you for the miracle of Jesus' birth.
Bless this scene we have prepared and let it
remind us that Jesus is with us always. Amen.**

Carol: Joseph's Lullaby

**Go to sleep my son
this manger for your bed
you have a long road before you
rest your little head.
Can you feel the weight of your glory?
Do you understand the price?
Does the father guard your heart for now
so that you can sleep tonight?**

**Go to sleep my son.
Go and chase your dreams.
This world can wait for one more moment
go and sleep in peace.
I believe the glory of heaven
is lying in my arms tonight
Lord, I ask that he, for just one moment,
simply be my child.**

**Go to sleep my son.
Baby close your eyes.
Soon enough you'll save the day
but for now dear child of mine
O my Jesus sleep tight.**

(Hum first line with concertina)

J is for **joy**, the excitement and happiness that a new baby, and now this special night, brings.



K is for **kindness**, shown by the innkeeper that night, allowing a tired family to stay in the stable when there was no room in the Inn.

L is for **love** we share with one another all through the year and especially at Christmas.



M is for **manger**. It is usually used to hold food for animals, but on this night it held the baby Jesus because he had no crib.



Carol: Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus a-sleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle 'til 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 take us to heaven to live with thee there.**

N is for **Noel**, another word for Christmas. It means new birth. That's what happened in our story, and it happens every year.

O is for offering. There were many gifts for the baby. We even have some to share now!



Offertory Carol: What Child Is This?

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthem 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.**

**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.**

P is for **prayer** and **praise** and **pondering**, all the different ways people reacted to the amazing thing that happened.

We **pray** and **praise** and **ponder** together the Prayer over the Gifts.

Prayer over the Gifts:

**Gracious God,
we give thanks for your love made known to us
in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem:
for Mary and Joseph, for angels who sang of his glory,
and shepherds who knelt in adoration.
May Jesus' birth bring light to all people
and joy to the whole world. Amen.**

Q is for **quiet**, the deep peace that Christmas brings ~ knowing God is with us.

R is for **revelation**, God showing us who God is (in a little baby one night).



S is for one **special star** that shone bright in the night showing wise ones the way to Jesus.

S is also for **Shepherd**

Let's sing together,
Rise Up Shepherd and Follow,
which tells the story of a
Shepherd and that **special star**.



Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

**There's a star in the east on Christmas morn
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**It'll lead to the place where the Saviour's born
rise up shepherd and follow.**

Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.

**Follow the star of Bethlehem
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Leave your sheep and leave your lambs
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Leave your ewes and leave your rams
rise up shepherd and follow.**

Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.

**Follow the star to Bethlehem
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**If you take good heed of the angel's words
rise up shepherd and follow.
You'll forget your flocks
you'll forget your herds
rise up shepherd and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem
rise up shepherd and follow.**

T is for **trust**, the confidence we have in God.

U is for **unity**, all different people brought together tonight to celebrate God's love!

V is for vulnerable. A little child needs to be cared for, protected ~ that's our job.



W is for **wonder** ~ Our amazement at the beauty of how much God loves us.

X is for **Xmas**. The X is actually the symbol for Christ ~ It is the first letter of the Greek word.

Y is for **YOU**! All of YOU here to celebrate and worship.

Z is for **zeal**, the passion with which we share the Good News and God's Love, tonight.

Confession and Absolution:

Please stand and as we say together,

**GOD, we have done things we should not have done
and we have NOT done things we should have done.
Forgive us, and help us to do what you want us to do,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God forgives you. You are free to live in new ways.
Rejoice that God guides you. **Amen.**

The PEACE of the Lord
be always with you.

And also with you.

Carol:
O Come Little Children
(performed by Carol &
Donnie Webb)



The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise,
almighty God, for the gift
of a world full of wonder,
and for our life which comes from you.
By your power you sustain the universe.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

You created us to love you
with all our heart,
and to love each other as ourselves,
but we rebel against you
by the evil that we do.
In Jesus, your Son,
you bring healing to our world
and gather us into one great family.

Therefore, with all who serve you
on earth and in heaven,
we praise your wonderful name, as we sing,
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because
in sending Jesus, your Son, to us
you showed us how much you love us.
He cares for the poor and the hungry.
He suffers with the sick and the rejected.
Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back
but overcame hatred with love.

On the cross he defeated the power
of sin and death.

By raising him from the dead
you show us the power of your love
to bring new life to all your people.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

On the night before he gave up his life for us,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which is given for you.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends,
and said, “Drink this, all of you:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.”

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God, with this bread and wine
we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and
we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts,
that we may know the presence of Jesus
in the breaking of bread,
and share in the life
of the family of your children.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Father, you call us to be your servants;
fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,
that all the world may gather in joy
at the table of your kingdom.

We sing your praise, almighty Father,
through Jesus, our Lord,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Music During Communion:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
When Mary Hugged
Her Newborn Son
Born in the Night



Journey to Bethlehem

Prayer After Communion

**Heavenly GOD, may we who have been fed
on your Word, and at your Table,
always follow the Way of Jesus.
Amen.**

Blessing

Light of God: **guide our way;**

Joy of God: **fill our hearts;**

Peace of God: **change our lives.**

And the blessing of God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Carol: Go Tell It On The Mountain

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth!**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**



