

**Matthew 2:6 – The Shepherd from Bethlehem****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

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
 Descend to us, we pray  
 Cast out our sin and enter in  
 Be born to us today  
 We hear the Christmas angels  
 The great glad tidings tell  
 O come to us, abide with us  
 Our Lord Emmanuel

**WELCOME: CHRISTMAS EVE AT BIRDFISH****O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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

**Luke 2:1-7—A Child is Born**

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!

**Luke 2:8-14—The Angels' Invitation**

Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation;  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.  
 Glory to God,  
 Glory in the highest;

**Luke 2:15-20—What the Shepherds Saw**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 Born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
 Son of the Father,  
 Now in flesh appearing;

**CORPORATE READING****Isaiah 9:2, 6**

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 on those living in the land of deep darkness  
 a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup>**For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given,  
 and the government will be on his shoulders.  
 And he will be called  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high  
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
 And the mountains in reply  
 Echoing their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
 Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be  
 Which inspire your heav'nly song?

See Him in a manger laid,  
 Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
 While our hearts in love we raise.

**THE STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS****O Holy Night**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
 It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
 'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

*Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
 O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
 O night divine, O night, O night divine.*

**CORPORATE PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, we bring ourselves before you because you invited us to come as we are. Thank you that you take everything we bring and that is never too little or too much.

**Jesus, You come to us!**

Jesus, you know celebration and you celebrate with us. You know the darkness of sin and the distance we have created in our sinfulness. And your heart breaks more than ours at the state of our world.

**Jesus, You come to us!**

In the kind of work that brings life, we offer ourselves to you. As excavators, architects, electricians, business owners, cooks and chefs, baristas, bartenders, and beer brewers, florists and farmers, and all those who design, create and build,

**Come fill our imaginations, we need You here.**

In the often unrecognized or unseen service of others, as bus drivers & truck drivers, teachers, Amazon & UPS drivers, postal workers, doctors and nurses, landscapers, bankers, janitors, city sewer and water workers, those running the chainsaws and chippers for our tree service, the clerks at Dunkin Donuts, the children taking care of elderly parents, and more who give themselves for the benefit of others,

**God who serves all, sustain us in our service.**

In the work that pushes against the brokenness of the world: for marriage counselors, police and fire fighters, funeral home directors, soldiers, attorneys, child services employees, train derailment clean-up and relief workers, and more,

**Light in the Darkness, hold us with your hope.**

<b>Your Labor Is Not in Vain</b>
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Your labor is not in vain  
though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained  
Your planting and reaping are never the same  
But your labor is not in vain.

*For I am with you, I am with you.*

*I am with you, I am with you*

*For I have called you,  
called you by name*

*Your labor is not in vain.*

Your labor is not unknown  
though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.  
The place of your toil may not seem like a home  
but your labor is not unknown.

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit  
the fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,  
for all that is old will at last be made new:  
the vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build  
will finally with laughter and joy be filled.  
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed  
and all that is broken be healed.

**CORPORATE PRAYER (Continued)**

Lord we pray for Columbiana, our schools, the businesses here, and the experience of life together. Thank you for the people who grew up here, the people who have just moved here, and the people who will live here in the future.

**Lord, come into our spaces and make them home.**

Jesus, at your birth, Heaven and Earth were reconciled. We pray for our state, our country, and our relationships around the world. We pray for the healing of political divides, racial divides, and social divides.

**Lead us to be reconciled with one another and to be courageous in that process.**

For the efforts behind us and more still ahead, as we finish wrapping gifts, baking cookies, preparing meals, sitting across the table from one another, and then cleaning our houses.

**Let your presence transform our celebrations and the memories of them.**

Lord Jesus, you invited us to come as we are. Now, shine your light into the world through us as you send us out.

**Oh Lord, hear our prayer**

<b>Emmanuel</b>
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**CANDLE LIGHTING**

<b>Silent Night</b>
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Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace x 2

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born x 2

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, oh, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth x 2

***Benediction***