

# *Christmas Carols*



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Compiled by John Vernoski

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Hymns marked with Asterisk (\*) were translated  
by Msgr. William Levkusic.

## 1. ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
    Echo back their joyous strains!  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be  
    Which inspire your heav'nly song!  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## 2. HEAVEN AND EARTH \*

1. Nebo i zeml'a, nebo i zeml'a  
Nyňi toržestvujut'  
Anhely l'ude, anhely l'ude  
Veselo sprazdnujut'  
    :Christos rodilsja, Boh voplotilsja,  
    Anhely spivajut' Carije vitajut',  
    Poklon otdajut', pastyrije hrajut!,  
    Čudo, čudo povidajut'!

Heaven and earth, heaven and earth,  
Now welcome their Redeemer!  
Angels and people, angels and people,  
Join in a celebration!

:Salvation is begun, born is the Virgin's Son;  
Angel voices ringing, Wise men gifts are bringing;  
Shepherds tell the story; star proclaims the glory;  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

## 2. HEAVEN AND EARTH (continued)

2. Vo viflejemi, vo Viflejemi  
Vesela novina!  
Čistaja D'iva, čistaja D'iva  
Porodila Syna!  
:Christos rodilsja....

In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem  
God's word is given birth!  
Born of a virgin, born of a virgin,  
Master of heav'n and earth!  
:Salvation is begun....

## 3. SILENT NIGHT

1. 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,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!
2. Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

4. Jasna Zorja,  
nyři sčodit,  
Viflejemi, carjsja rodi  
Ludske tilo, Boh prijmaje  
I proviny vsim proscaje  
Slava, slava Bohu,  
Slava, slava Bohu!

#### 4. O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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!  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!
2. 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,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!
3. Adeste, fideles, laeti triumphantes;  
Venite, venite, in Bethlehem;  
Natum videte, Regem angelorum;  
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,  
Venite adoremus, Dominum!
4. Pri-di-te vir-ni ve-se-lo praz-dnu-jem,  
Pri-di-te, pri-di-te vo vi-fle-je-mi!  
U-vi-dem čar-ja, an-hel rož-den-ni!  
Pri-di-te po-klo-nim-sja,  
Pri-di-te po-klo-nim-sja,  
Pri-di-te po-klo-nim-sja, Ho-spo-du!

## 5. JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!
  
2. Joy to the world!  
The Savior reigns;  
Let men their hearts employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!
  
3. He rules the world!  
With truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, and wonders of His love!

## 6. ETERNAL GOD \*

1. Eternal God, thru gates of birth,  
From heaven's throne, came down to earth!  
:Shepherds adore, angels sing;  
Star shines on the new-born King,  
Jesus Christ is born!:

Boh predv'ičnyj narodilsja:  
:Prijšol dnes', so nebes,  
Aby spas l'ud svoj v ves',  
I ut'išilsja!:

2. Bethlehem's Child, born in a cave;  
Messiah, sent here to save!  
:Destined to make sacrifice;  
Only God could pay such price,  
For the fall of man!:

V Viflejemi narodilsja:  
:Mesija Christos naš  
I Pan naš dl'a vs'ich nas,  
Nam narodilsja!:

## 7. AWAY IN THE MANGER

1. Away in the manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay!
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle 'Till morning is nigh!

## 8. WHEN THE BRILLIANT STAR SHONE

1. When the brilliant star shone  
From the heavens afar,  
:That is when the Virgin Mary  
Gave us Jesus her Son!:

Koli jasna zvezda  
Z neba zasvitila,  
:Tohda Prečistaja Djiva  
Syna porodila!:

2. When she gave birth to Him  
She sang beautifly:  
:"Lullaby, O Son of God,  
For I would like to sleep!":

3. Fall asleep Mother dear,  
But for only one hour!  
:I'll return to you from heaven  
with a blanket for you!:

4. O my Son, O my Son,  
Would You really do this?  
:It is only one hour  
that You have been born!:

5. My Mother most dear,  
Please believe that I can!  
:Earth and heaven, I created  
and all living creatures!:

6. Shepherds take up your horns  
Play a tune to our Lord  
:That the Son of God is born  
Praised be Jesus our Lord!:

## 9. HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING!

1. Hark! The herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new born King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth!  
Ris'n with healing in His wings,  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! The herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## 10. JESUS CAME FROM HEAVEN \*

Jesus came from heaven,  
Adam's son through birth!  
Just a lowly stable,  
A King's palace on earth!  
:Choirs of angels joyfully sing:  
Welcome to the newborn King!  
Glory! Glory! Glory!  
Glory to God in the highest!:

## 10. JESUS CAME FROM HEAVEN (continued)

Spas naš narodilsja  
V t'il'i Boh javilsja!  
Chot' On nevmistimyj,  
V jasl'ach pomistilsja!  
:Chory anhelski spivajut'  
Naroždennaho vitaju':  
Slava, slava, slava,  
Slava v vyšnich Bohu!:

## 11. O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. 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!
2. For Christ is born of Mary  
And, gathered all above.  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love!  
O, morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God, our King,  
And peace to men on earth!

## 12. WONDROUS NEWS \*

1. Wondrous news to all the earth;  
First and only virgin birth!  
:Born in Bethlehem!  
Born of Mary!  
Yet both God and man!:

Divnaja novina,  
Nyňi D'iva Syna,  
:Porodila v Viflejemi  
Marija jedina!:

2. Royal palace not for Him;  
Turned away from Bethl'em's inn!  
:God had deigned it so;  
To serve the poor,  
These things He must know!:

Ne v carskoj palat'i.  
No meždu bydl'ati,  
Vo pustyňi, vo jaskiňi  
Treba to vs'im znati.

## 13. THE FIRST NOEL

1. The first Noel, the angels 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!
2. 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 continued both day and night!  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

## 14. IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. In the town of Bethlehem  
Mary's Son is born a King,  
:Born to bless us and to save us  
And to lead all men to God!  
O Savior!:

V Viflejemi novina,  
D'iva Syna porodila,  
:Porodila v blahodati,  
Neporočcna D'iva Mati,  
Maria!:

2. In a cave at Bethlehem,  
Bed of straw His royal throne;  
:Mary wondered, Joseph pondered  
How the Child was Son of God,  
The Savior!:

Položila na s'iňi  
V Viflejemskoj jaskini,  
:Iosif D'ivu pot'išaje,  
Povivati pomahaje,  
Marii!:

## 15. IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. It came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From Heav'ns all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing!

## 16. GOD'S SON IS BORN \*

God's Son is born but a myst'ry to our mind!  
Jesus, his name, means the Savior of mankind!  
:Now the angels sing their prayer  
making known this child so fair!  
Shepherds hear the angels' song,  
Come and keep watch all night long!  
Sheep and oxen gaze  
And warm this newborn babe;  
For all creation knows this is their Lord!:

Boh sja raždajet, ktož 'Ho možet znati!  
Isus Mu imja, Marija Mu mati!  
:Tut anhely čud'at'sja, Roždennaho bojat'sja!  
A vol stojit' trjasetsja, osel smutno pasetsja!  
Pastirije kl'ačut', v ploti Boha bačut',  
Tutže, tutže, tutže, tutže tut!:

## 17. WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

1. We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor, and mountain,  
Following yonder star!  
O star of wonder, star of night!  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light!
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain!  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign!  
O star of wonder, star of night!  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light!

## 18. JOYFUL TIDINGS COME OUR WAY \*

1. Joyful tidings come our way;  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
:Heavens sing; shepherds told,  
Wise men bring gifts of gold!:  
Angels kneel in adoration;  
Creatures hushed in contemplation!  
Hail the newborn King!

Radost'nam sja javl'ajet  
D'iva Syna raždajet,  
:Nebesa, nebesa, nebesa,  
Pojut'. pojut'!:  
Anhely sja udivl'ajut',  
Pastyrije poklon dajut',  
Naroždennomu!

2. Joseph lend your loving care!  
Guard this Child and Mother fair!  
:Wondrous night, holy night;  
n'er before star so bright!:  
Angels sing a salutation  
to the Master of creation!  
Hail the newborn King!

Ty Josife stareňkij,  
Place Isus maleňkij!  
:Pomahaj, pomahaj, pomahaj,  
Jeho, Jeho!:  
Cistoj D'ivi kolysati,  
I pisň Jemu zaspivati:  
L'ul'aj, Carju naš!

## 19. GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

1. 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 pow'r  
when we were gone astray!  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!
2. 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!  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

## 20. JOYFUL NEWS \*

1. Joyful news to the whole world;  
Christ is born to redeem men!  
:Brilliant star shines in the heavens  
Leading kings to Bethlehem!:  
  
Nova radost'stala,  
Jaka ne byvala,  
:Nad vertepom,  
zv'izda jasna  
Svitlom zasijala!:
2. Royal born in a stable;  
Born to be King of all kings!  
:He was wrapped in swaddling clothing  
to be like us in all things!:

**20. JOYFUL NEWS** (continued)

Kol'Christos rodilsja,  
Z D'ivy voplotilsja,  
:Jak čelovik pelenami  
Uboho povilsja!:

3. Angels came to the shepherds  
singing this wondrous story!  
:Heav'n and earth resounded loudly:  
Glory! Glory! Glory!:

Anhely spivajut',  
"Slava" voskicajut'.  
Na nebesi, I na zemli  
Radost' vozviščajut'.

**21. ANGELS FROM HEAVEN \***

1. Angels from heaven came to you shepherds;  
have no fear! Have no fear!  
Hasten to honor Him, born near in Bethlehem;  
offer gifts, though poor and small!

So nebes Anhel prišedše ko vam,  
Pastyr'i, pastyr'i !  
Do Viflejema hrjad'ite skoro,  
S darami, s darami!

2. There in a manger, you will behold Him,  
Son of God! Son of God!  
Child whose humility veils His divinity!  
our true Savior, Christ the Lord!

3. So close beside Him, Mary His mother;  
Virgin pure! Virgin pure!  
Soothed by her gentle hands,  
while beasts in wonder stand!  
Her true Son, yet Son of God!!

## 22. CHERUBIC HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

*Majestically*

*Melody: "Nova Radost Stala" - "Joyful News"*

Let us who my-sti-cly re-pre-sent the Che-ru-bim  
 and sing the thrice ho-ly hymn to the life cre-a-ting Tri-ni-ty  
 now set a-side all earth-ly cares, set a-side all earth-ly cares.  
 A-men. That we may wel-come; wel-come the King of All  
 in-vi-si-bly es-cor-ted by an-gel-lic hosts.  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

I-že Che-ru-vi-mi, Che-ru-vi-mi taj-no  
 I-ži vo-tvo-rja-scej Troj-ci tri-svja-tu-ju.  
 Vsja ku-ju-ny-ňi ny-ňi ži-tej sku-ju.

Che-ru-vi-mi taj-no taj-no, o-bra-zu-ju-šče.  
 Troj-ci, troj-ci, tri-svja-tu-ju pišň pri-no-sja šče.  
 Ny-mi, ny-ni, zi-tej-sku-ju ot ver-žim pe-čal.

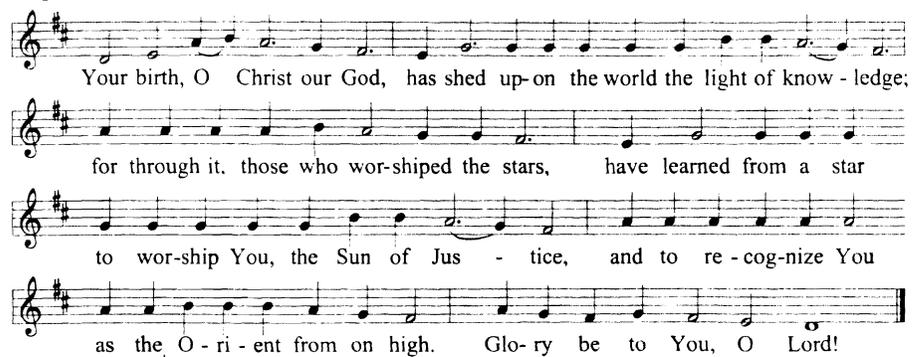
Ja-ko da car-ja vsich car-ja vsich pod-i-mem.  
 An-hel-ski-mi ne-vi-di-mo do-ri-no-si-ma čin mi.  
 Al-li-lu-ja, Al-li-lu-ja, Al-li-lu-ja!

## COMMUNION HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS - Psalm 110 [111]:9

The Lord has sent de-liv-er-ance de-liv-er-ance to His peo-ple.  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

## 23. TROPARION OF CHRISTMAS

### Troparion of the Nativity of Christ - Tone 4



Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed up-on the world the light of know - ledge,  
for through it, those who wor-shiped the stars, have learned from a star  
to wor-ship You, the Sun of Jus - tice, and to re - cog-nize You  
as the O - ri - ent from on high. Glo- ry be to You, O Lord!

### Troparion of the Nativity of Christ - Tone 4 (Slavonic)



Rož - de - stvo Tvo - je Chris - te Bo - že nas, voz - si - ja mi - ro - vi sv'it  
ra - zu - ma: V'ne bo zvi'z-dam slu - ža - šči - i, zv'iz-do' ju u - ča - chu - sja,  
Te - bi kla - ňa - ti - sja Soln - cu prav - dy, i Te - be v'i - di - ti  
so vy - so - ty Vo - sto - ka: Hos - po - di Sla - va Te - b'i!

## Notes:

This booklet was designed specifically for a parish that sang carols during the approximately 30 minutes between Great Compline and the beginning of Christmas Divine Liturgy.

It was also designed to be worship friendly. As one of many possibilities the congregation can start with #5 / Joy to the World as an American Carol that everyone will know and be able to sing while finding their place. Then continue in order alternating American and Slavic Carols (alternating means that those who do not know the Slavic Carols will not feel left out and those who want more Slavic carols only have to wait for one song).

Then, at 10 minutes before the start of the Divine Liturgy go back and sing #1 / Angels We Have Heard on High, #2 / Heaven and Earth (Nebo I Zem'la), #3 / Silent Night. At the conclusion of Silent Night there is a pause. When the deacon or priest begins the incensing start #4 / O Come All Ye Faithful.

This order has worked very well in a number of parishes for many years.

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