



Bolton Priory

Christingle Service and Blessing of the Crib

Thursday 24th December 2020, 4 pm



Welcome and Introduction

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 poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our saviour holy.

First reading – A Very Un-stable Beginning

The animals are placed in the crib as we sing:

**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.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.**

Second reading – The Donkey

The figures of the Holy Family are placed in the crib as we sing:

**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.***

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
*Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.***

Third reading – The Sheepdog

The shepherds are placed in the crib as we sing:

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

**'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring, to you and all mankind.**

**Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, who thus, addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace:
Good will henceforth from heaven to men, begin and never cease.'**

Fourth reading – The Three Wise Men

The Wise Men are placed in the crib as we sing:

**See him lying on a bed of straw;
a draughty stable with an open door,
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
the prince of glory is his name.**

***Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem, to see the Lord of love again;
Just as poor as was the stable then, the prince of glory when he came.***

**Star of silver sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies.
Shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world.**

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing how Bethlehem's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.**

**Mine are riches from thy poverty,
From thine innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by thy death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.**

The Blessing of the Crib

Talk about Christingle and its meaning

The lighting of the Christingles

We stay seated to sing this carol

Children 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.

All **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 for ever, and love me, I pray,
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Prayers and Blessing

**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.***

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
*O come...***

**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...

**Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:**

O come...

Blessing

