

# Traditional Crib Service



*Hymn numbers, unless otherwise stated, taken from Hymns Old and New: New Anglican Edition (1996)*

**Opening Carol:** 403 Once in Royal David's City

## Welcome

Christ has brought us out of darkness:  
**to live in his marvellous light**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to this crib service. We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

## Opening Prayers

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;  
**Jesus is our King**

*A candle is lit*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;  
**Jesus is our Way**

With Jesus even dark places are light;  
**Jesus is the Truth**

In Jesus we shall live for ever:  
**Jesus is our Life**

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show us how much God loves the world.  
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,  
until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory.

**Amen**

**O God the Son, highest and holiest,  
who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death:**

bring us with the shepherds and the wise men  
to kneel before your holy cradle,  
that we may come to sing with your angels  
your glorious praises in heaven;  
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign,  
God, world without end.  
Amen

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

*We light the four Advent candles*

One candle for hope, the second  
for the prophets of the Word,  
the third for John the Baptist  
who called us to change,  
and the fourth for Mary  
who simply and gladly  
responded to the call of God.

“Here am I” said Mary, “I am the Lord’s Servant. As you have spoken so be it.” *Luke 1.38*

God of the humble,  
we thank you for choosing Mary,  
and for her readiness and joy  
in answering your call.  
Help us to journey with the lowly  
so that Jesus, born in a stable,  
may be born anew in our hearts.  
Amen.

**Reading 1** - Luke 2: 1-7

**Carol:** 51 Away in a Manger  
*Mary, Joseph and the baby are placed in the crib*

**Reading 2** - Luke 2:8-16

**Carol:** While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
*The shepherds are placed in the crib*

**Reading 3** - Matthew 2:1-12

**Carol:** 41 As with Gladness Men of Old  
*The wise men are placed in the crib*

## Blessing of the Crib

God our Father,  
on this night we remember that your Son Jesus Christ  
was born of the Virgin Mary

for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.

**Amen**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving**

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds  
the good news of Jesus' birth.

**Amen. We thank you, Lord**

You have heard his story,  
the story of God's own Son.

**Amen. We thank you, Lord**

May he fill you with joy  
to bring this good news to others today.

**Amen. We thank you, Lord**

## **Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
The eagerness of the shepherds,  
The perseverance of the wise men,  
The obedience of Joseph and Mary  
And the peace of the Christ child  
Be yours this Christmas;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The father, Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

**Carol:** 357 O Come All ye Faithful (verses 1-3)

*An offering will be taken during this carol*

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