

The Christmas Story In Carols



This simple guide provides a narrative that strings together 10 well-known Christmas Carols to tell the Christmas story.

The Idea

Guests can be encouraged to participate by reading aloud the narratives in between the songs. Depending on the resources available, musicians can either provide the music for the carols, or they can be played back from a CD.

It is not so important to get the music and harmony perfect. Rather, spend time praying that as your guests (and yourselves) read the story and sing the songs, you would all be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas – Immanuel, God with us! – and to respond to him as he calls us.

	Narrative	Carols
1	Why do people give gifts at Christmas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Santa Claus is coming to Town▪ Jingle Bells
2	The Birth of Jesus foretold	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ O Little Town of Bethlehem
3	The Birth of Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Silent night, Holy night▪ O Holy night
4	The Shepherds and the Angels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing▪ Angels we have Heard on High
5	Shepherds visiting Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The First Noel
6	The meaning of Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Joy to the World▪ We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

Lastly, this is just a suggested list. Please feel free to change and adapt it as appropriate to your group and your guests.

1. Why do people give gifts at Christmas?

Narrative

People give gifts at Christmas for many reasons:

- Some people give gifts to show their love for their families and friends.
- Some people tell the story of Santa Claus – who in fact is the kind soul, Saint Nicholas, who gave gifts to the poor.

Carol – Santa Claus is coming to Town / Jingle Bells

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

Oh! You better watch out,
You better not cry,
You better not pout,
I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is coming to town!

He's making a list,
He's checking it twice,
He's gonna find out
who's naughty or nice.
Santa Claus is coming to town!

He sees you when you're sleeping,
He knows when you're awake.
He knows when you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake!

So...You better watch out,
You better not cry
You better not pout,
I'm telling you why.
Santa Claus is coming to town!

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow,
in a one-horse open sleigh,
Over the fields we go,
laughing all the way.
Bells on bob-tails ring,
making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
a sleighing song tonight.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way!
O what fun it is to ride
in a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way!
O what fun it is to ride
in a one-horse open sleigh.

2. The Birth of Jesus foretold

Narrative

Actually Christmas is about the birth of Jesus.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to the virgin Mary, who was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Then Joseph and Mary went up to Bethlehem the town of David.

Carol – O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 wondering love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth!
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
o come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

3. The Birth of Jesus

Narrative

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol – Silent Night, Holy Night / O Holy Night

Silent Night, Holy 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,
heavenly 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. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

O Holy Night

1. 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 appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Refrain:

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

2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend

3. Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name

4. The Shepherds and the Angels

Narrative

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Carol – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing / Angels we have heard on high

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 host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Angels we have heard on high

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

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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

5. Shepherds visiting Jesus

Narrative

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Carol – The First Noel

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!

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

5. Then entered in those Wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

6. The meaning of Christmas

Narrative

The Christmas story, therefore, reminds us of the miracle of Jesus's birth, that God became a man like us and yet He was still God. Christmas also reminds us that Christ is a gift to us-- the gift of new life and salvation.

Carol – Joy to the World / We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found.

4. 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 of his love.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

