

Minister : We celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world.  
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
**People:** **And we beheld his glory.**

*The candles are lit with these words:*

Minister: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**People:** **a light no darkness can quench.**

Minister: The shepherds kept watch by night,  
**People:** **and your glory shone around them.**

Minister: The darkness is not dark to you,  
**People:** **the night is as clear as the day.**

Minister: Let your light scatter the darkness  
**People:** **and illumine your Church with glory.**

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

**Reading:** The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2: 1-7

**Carol:** The First Nowell

*After the reading, the children carry the figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and the animals to the altar during the singing of the carol.*

**Reading:** Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-20

**Carol:** While Shepherds Watched  
*The figures of the shepherds are now carried to the altar.*

**Reading:** Visitors from the East Arrive at Bethlehem, Matthew 2:1-12

**Carol:** We Three Kings  
*As this carol is sung, the figures of the three kings are carried forward.*

**Carol:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
*The figure of the angel is carried to the altar as the carol is sung.*

**The Sermon**

**The Blessing of the Crib and Prayers of Thanksgiving.**

**Carol:** Away in a Manger

*After the Minister has blessed the crib, the people join in the following acclamations:*

Minister: Blessed are you, God of all glory.  
Through Jesus, you have made us all your children.

**People: Blessed be God our Father!**

Minister: He will be called Emmanuel,

**People: God with us. Alleluia !**

Minister: Let us praise the Lord God most high,

**People: He has come to set his people free.**

Minister: He gave up the glory of heaven,

**People: and took the form of a servant.**

Minister: The Word was made flesh

**People: And dwelt among us.**

Minister: This night the Saviour comes:

**People: Alleluia !**

Minister: This night the angels sing on earth:

**People: Alleluia ! Glory to God in the highest !**

*Please come forward to view the crib and offer a prayer, celebrating the love and light which flow from Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem.*

*Music will be played during this time of reflection.*

**Carol:** O Little Town of Bethlehem

*A collection will be taken during the singing of this carol.*

**The Blessing**