**Autumn 2 Year 3**

# Participating and willing to lead

**Christmas carols and their meaning**

A good resource is the Apostles’ Creed. It clearly explains the main beliefs held in common by the majority of Christians.

(http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/daily/other/lordsprayercreed.html)

1. Like a candle flame
2. Once in Royal David’s City
3. O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. **Like a candle flame** written by Graham Kendrick

Like a candle flame, 1

Flick’ring small in our darkness.2

Uncreated3 light shines through infant eyes.

God is with us4, alleluia,

Come to save us5, alleluia, alleluia!

Stars and angels sing, 6

Yet the earth sleeps in the shadows;

Can this tiny spark set a world on fire? 7

God is with us, alleluia,

Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

Yet his light shall shine

From our lives, spirit blazing, 8

As we touch the flame of his holy fire.

God is with us, alleluia,

Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

God is with us, alleluia,

Come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

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1 ***Like a candle flame***  God is described as light (1 John 1:5) – all that is good and pure. Here Jesus is compared to a “candle flame”, describing the way he came into the world. God, who is pure light comes into the world as a tiny flame; a tiny baby. Bible reference: John 1:1-18; John 8:12; 1 John 1:5

2 **o*ur darkness*** The Bible says that all of humanity is in darkness; the opposite to God’s light because of their rebellion against God and is in need of being saved.

Bible reference: John 1:1-18

3***uncreated*** Christians believe that Jesus was from the beginning (John 1) as part of the Trinity (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit) which means he has always existed; unlike other humans, he was not created.

Bible reference: John 1:1-18

4 ***God is with us*** Jesus’ name “Immanuel” means “God is with us”.

Bible reference: Matthew 1:23 (quote from Isaiah 7:14)

5 ***Come to save us*** The name Jesus means ‘God saves’ or ‘Salvation’

Bible reference: Matthew 1:21, Luke 2:11

6 **angels sing** Onthe night that Jesus was born, angels visited shepherds and praised God. (Although we don’t know if they sang or not!)

Bible Reference: Luke 2:8-15

7 ***set a world on fire?*** The angel that visited Mary promised that Jesus would be a great King, who will have impact on the whole world. As a result of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, millions of people have been “set on fire” with love for God.

Bible Reference: Luke 1:32-33; Matthew 3:11

8 ***Yet…spirit blazing*** God’s light will be seen by the help of the Holy Spirit which is given to those who trust and believe in Jesus.

Bible Reference: Acts 2:1-4; *2 Corinthians 4:6;* Galatians 3:14(?)

2. **Once in Royal David’s City** written by Cecil Frances Alexander

Once in royal David’s city,1

Stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her Baby,

In a mangerfor His bed:

Mary was that mother mild,

Jesus Christ,2 her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,

Who is God and Lord of all,3

And His shelter was a stable,

And His cradle was a stall:

With the poor, and mean, and lowly,4

Lived on earth our Saviour5 holy.

For He is our childhood’s pattern;

Day by day, like us, He grew;

He was little, weak, and helpless,

Tears and smiles, like us He knew;

And He cares when we are sad,

And He shares when we are glad.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,6

Through His own redeeming7 love;

For that Child so dear and gentle,

Is our Lord in heaven above:

And He leads His children8 on,

To the place where He is gone. 9

1 ***royal David’s city*** King David was born in Bethlehem and afterwards, through the prophet Micah, God promised His ruler over Israel would come from Bethlehem. We are told the Magi, or wise men heard about this prophecy in Matthew 2:1-6. Jesus was born in Bethlehem; Christians believe that he is that promised ruler.

Bible References: 1 Samuel 16:1; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6

2 ***Christ*** Greek for‘Messiah’, which means ‘God’s anointed’, God’s chosen King. The Christ was to save Israel. Here is God’s chosen King, not born in a palace, but laid in a feeding stall!

Bible reference: Luke 1:22-23; Luke 2:11

3 ***He came down… Lord of all*** Christians believe that Jesus is God, part of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Bible reference: John 1:1-18

4 ***with the poor…lowly*** Jesus grew up in an obscure village, amongst ordinary people. Here is God, humbling himself to be amongst his people; ordinary, poor and everyday people.

Bible reference: Philippians 2:5-11

5 ***Saviour*** The name Jesus means ‘God saves’ or ‘Salvation’.

Bible reference: Matthew 1:21, Luke 2:11

6 ***And our eyes at last shall see Him*** The bible says that everyone will see Jesus when he comes back to judge the earth.

Bible reference: 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7

7 ***redeeming*** The bible says that by dying on the cross, Jesus paid for all wrong doing, “buying” Christians back to God

Bible reference: Galatians 4:4-5

8 ***children*** The bible often calls those who trust in God, children of God.

Bible reference: John 1:12

9 ***To the place where He is gone***  Christians believe that Jesus died, rose again and after a while went back to heaven.

Bible reference: John 14:2-3; Acts 1:1-10

3. **O Little Town of Bethlehem** written by Phillips Brooks

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 Light1

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight.

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 men on earth2

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.3

O holy Child of Bethlehem

Descend to us, we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in

Be born to us today.

We hear the Christmas angels,

The great glad tidings4 tell

O come to us, abide with us

Our Lord Emmanuel.5

1 ***everlasting Light***  God is described as light (1 John 1:5) – all that is good and pure. Here is Jesus being described as the everlasting light, as God

Bible reference: Isaiah 60:19-20; John 1:1-5; John 8:12; 1 John 1:5

2***O morning stars…men on earth***  Referring to the angels’ praises of God, witnessed by the shepherds

Bible reference: Luke 2:8-14

3 ***Where meek souls…enters in.***  Christians believe that anyone who trusts and believe in Jesus (those who ‘receive him’) will have His spirit living in them, to help them to follow Jesus.

Luke 17:20-21; Acts 2:38

4 ***Glad tidings*** The angels that visited the shepherd brought “good news of great joy that will be for all the people”. They brought the good news that the saviour had been born.

Bible reference: Luke 2:8-14

5 ***Emmanuel*** A name for Jesus meaning ‘God with us’. Christians believe that Jesus is God.