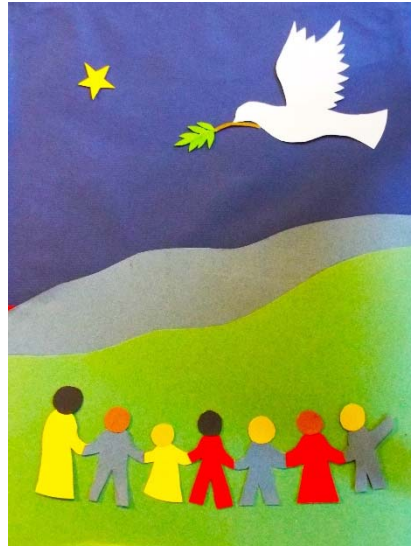


# Carols by Candlelight, Boxing Day 2024



## Peace

*The triptych is open on the stage with all three panels visible. The first two candles, Love and Joy, are in front of their respective pictures. The map of the world in the centre of the floor, has one candle alight: Peace. It is placed at Bethlehem.*

Welcome to Carols by Candlelight.

Here is our Christmas triptych this year with all three pictures.



Love

Christmas Eve

Joy

Christmas Day

Peace

Boxing Day

On **Christmas Eve** we looked at the first picture, Love. You will see stars. But there is also a manger, and a Cross. Taken together they help us to understand how much God love the world He had made, and why Jesus came. He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

On **Christmas Morning** we looked at the second picture, Joy. There are angels in the night sky. They are singing about very good news and mega joy. You can see the sheep near Bethlehem, and one of the shepherds has left his crook behind in his hurry to find Jesus in the manger.

Tonight we will look at the third picture.

*Lit candles are brought to everyone, and lights are dimmed as carols are sung:*

### **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. (Repeat)

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born! (Repeat)

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. (Repeat)

### **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 shine  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love

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.

## **Thought for Boxing Day      Triptych Three: Peace**

The third picture is about Peace. The scene looks the same, with fields and stars, but it could be anywhere in the world. You can see a dove, and there are children in the foreground. They are from different parts of the world. And they are holding hands as they look up at the stars and the dove.

One of the names given to Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He came to save and rescue the world and to bring peace that no one else could give. He showed us how to live at peace with each other. He died to bring peace between us and God. Most of us know that he died on a cross. That's why there is a cross in the first picture. It was God's way of putting us right with him: friends again. Through trusting what Jesus did for us on the Cross, it opens the way for us to be friends with others, even those it difficult to like or forgive.

When we are right with God and with others, then there can be true peace. The dove represents the bringing of peace to the world in Jesus.

Tonight, the world needs peacemakers very much, perhaps even more than it did last Christmas, and as we join hands with others, we can be peacemakers.

Here's a song that makes this our prayer...

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father  
We are family  
Let us live with each other  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

*Young ones gather around the map of the world with their candles*

**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

The cattle are lowing  
The Baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying He makes  
I love You, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side  
Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus  
I ask You to stay  
Close by me forever  
And love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children  
In Your tender care  
And fit us for heaven  
To live with You there



We wish you the blessing of the Love, Joy and Peace of Jesus Christ in 2025,  
Keith, Ruth and the Family of Mill Grove

Please feel free to take this sheet with you as a souvenir of today. You will find it and other service programmes on the Mill Grove website: [www.millgrove.org.uk](http://www.millgrove.org.uk)