

# Junior Choir Word-book 2024

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## 1 Songs for the Junior Concert Choir's own concert item

### 1.1 TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO

*Mark and Helen Johnson © 2015 Out of the Ark Ltd, Middlesex*

**1. Two thousand years ago,  
In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,  
Two thousand years ago, a baby king was born.  
In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem,  
Two thousand years ago, a baby king was born.**

#### *CHORUS*

**Gather round and listen to our Christmas story,  
Though you've heard it many times before,  
How the God of heaven showed his love towards us  
So that we can live for evermore.**

**2. Two thousand years ago,  
He came to us, He came to us,  
Two thousand years ago, He came to love us all.  
Two thousand years ago,  
He came to us, He came to us,  
Two thousand years ago, He came to love us all.)**

#### *CHORUS*

**Gather round and listen to our Christmas story,  
Though you've heard it many times before,  
How the God of heaven showed his love towards us  
So that we can live for evermore.**

**3. Two thousand years ago,  
In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem  
Two thousand years ago, a baby king was born.  
Two thousand years ago,  
In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem  
Two thousand years ago, a baby king was born.**

## **1.2 THE STAR EXPRESS**

*Words and Music by Ned Bennett © 2015 Out of the Ark Ltd, Middlesex*

***All aboard now! All aboard now!***

**1 All aboard the Star Express,  
Destination Bethlehem or didn't you guess?  
Gotta make haste, gotta follow the light,  
Gotta meet the boy who's being born tonight.  
All aboard now! All aboard now!**

**2 All aboard the Star Express,  
Seating is unlimited, it's ticketless.  
Gotta make steam, gotta burn the rails,  
Gotta meet the subject of a million tales.  
All aboard now! All aboard now!  
Clear along the line, we'll be there in time,  
This'll be a great story.  
Travelling along, got to sing a song  
All about the boy's glory.  
All aboard!**

**3. All aboard the Star Express,  
Angels overhead are spreading happiness.  
Ask yourself, 'What can I give?'  
You just need to love Him for as long as you live.  
All aboard now! All aboard now!  
Getting on for dawn, now the boy is born,  
Listen to the horn blowing. Whoo!!!  
Everyone aboard, starting to applaud,  
When they feel his love growing.  
All aboard!**

**4 All aboard the Star Express,  
Destination Bethlehem or didn't you guess?  
Gotta make haste, gotta follow the light,  
Gotta meet the boy who's being born tonight.  
All aboard now! All aboard now!  
All aboard now! All aboard!**

**All aboard now! All aboard now!  
All aboard now! All aboard!**

**Whoo!**

### 1.3 The Shepherds' Song

*Words by Marion Caragounis, a friend of Anthony, written by Anthony Hodson for the Junior Choir of 2017, and introduced again this year with minor changes.*

**1. Woken up by angels, the sky ablaze with light,  
They came to share a secret that cold and frosty night.  
It was the strangest story, but one that we believed,  
A baby in a manger the message we received.  
It frightened and amazed us that angels came to choose  
A group of humble shepherds to spread the joyful news.**

**Chorus: So let's play hide and seek friends, it's wonderful to find  
The One born in a stable, the Saviour of mankind.**

**2. Warmly wrapped and lying upon a bed of hay,  
We worshipped baby Jesus, and it was Christmas Day.  
They wanted us to find Him, their message was so clear,  
To tell a world that needs him the Son of God is here.  
Now everyone can find him, He reaches out in love  
No longer in a manger, but Lord in Heaven above.**

**Chorus: So let's play hide and seek friends, it's wonderful to find  
The One born in a stable, the Saviour of mankind.**

*Words for verse 2 upper voice only*

**2. Warmly wrapped in bed of hay,  
Baby Jesus on Christmas day  
Angels gave us message clear  
Tell the world God's son is here.  
Now we find him by his love,  
Now he's lord of heav'n above**

### *2 Audience carols with Junior Choir involvement*

#### **2.1 Once in Royal David's City' (traditional)**

**1. Once, in royal David's city,  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**2. He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

*Other verses – audience and adult choir*

**3. And through all his wondrous  
childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

**4. 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 feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.**

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

## 2.2 O come, all ye faithful (traditional)

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come,  
let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
Refrain: O come, etc.

### JUNIOR CHOIR

3. **See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him**  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4. Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:  
Refrain: O come, etc.

6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
Refrain: O come, etc.

5. Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?  
Refrain: O come, etc.

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
Refrain: O come, etc.