



Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there."

**First Lesson:** **Genesis 3:8-15**  
"God announces in the Garden of Eden  
that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head."

**Carol** ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** ***Brooks/Redner***  
"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.

"For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!

"How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

***Choir and Congregation:***  
"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 Immanuel!"

**Second Lesson:** **Genesis 22:1-8**  
"God promises to faithful Abraham  
that his seed shall the nations of the earth call blessed."

**Hymn Anthem** ***Followers of the Lamb*** ***Shaker Song***  
"Oh, brothers, ain't you happy?  
Ye followers of the Lamb.  
Sing on, sing on, Followers of Emmanuel,  
Sing on, sing on, Ye followers of the Lamb.  
"Oh, sisters, ain't you happy?  
Ye followers of the Lamb.  
Sing on, sing on, Followers of Emmanuel,  
Sing on, sing on, Ye followers of the Lamb.  
"God will provide the Lamb.  
Followers of the Lamb."

**Third Lesson:** **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**  
"Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah."

**Anthem** ***Thou Child Divine*** ***Schulz*** **Carol** ***A Virgin Unspotted*** ***Billings***  
"Thou Child Divine, Emmanuel,  
Welcome into Thy humble manger!  
With heartfelt joy Thy birth we hail,  
And greet with songs the heav'nly stranger.

"Our doubts and fears and sadness  
are turned to joy and gladness.  
Goodwill to all and peace on earth  
are now declared by our Savior's birth.

"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!  
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

**Fourth Lesson:** **Micah 5:2-5**  
"The peace that Christ will bring us is foreshown."

**Carol** ***I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*** ***Longfellow/Calkin***  
***Choir and Congregation:***  
"I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

"I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

"And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

"Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'"

"Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

**Fifth Lesson:** **Luke 1:26-35, 38**  
"The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary."

"A virgin unspotted, the prophet foretold,  
Should bring forth a Savior, which now we behold.  
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,  
Which Adam's transgression involved us in.

**Refrain**  
"Then let us be merry, put sorrow away:  
Our Savior, Christ Jesus, was born on this day.

"Through Bethlehem city, in Jewry, it was  
That Joseph and Mary together did pass,  
And for to be taxed when thither they came,  
Since Caesar Augustus commanded the same.

**(Refrain)**

"But Mary's full time being come, as we find,  
She brought forth her firstborn to save all mankind;  
The inn being full, for this heavenly guest,  
No place there was found where to lay Him to rest.

**(Refrain)**

"To teach us humility all this was done;  
Then learn we from hence haughty pride for to shun;  
A manger's His cradle who came from above.  
The great God of mercy, of peace and of love."

**(Refrain)**

**Sixth Lesson:** **Matthew 1:18-21**  
"Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus."

**Carol** ***What Child Is This*** ***English Melody***  
"What Child is this, who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?"

**Refrain**  
"This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!"

"So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him."

**(Refrain)**

**Seventh Lesson:** **Luke 2:8-20**  
"The shepherds go to the manger."