# Welcoming Music: Harmony Plus

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# Vocalise/Sister Sing

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# Welcome, by Reverend Karen Murphy, Chaplain, Weston Hospicecare

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# Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

O morning stars, together

Proclaim the holy birth

And praises sing to God the King

And peace to all 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.

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 Emmanuel

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# Act of Remembrance

The first candle represents for our grief

The pain of losing someone we love is hard to bear

This candle represents the depth of our love for those we remember today.

The second candle represents our courage

To confront sorrow

To comfort each other

To change our lives.

The third candle represents our memories.

The times we laughed

The times we cried

The times we were angry with each other

The silly things we did and

Happy memories of loved ones that we cherish.

The fourth candle represents our love.

The love we have for our loved ones will always shine.

The fact of their death does not change the strength and depth of our love for them.

They are gone from our sight but not our hearts.

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Throughout the next reading, staff and volunteers from the hospice  
will pause to read out the names of loved ones we are remembering.

As you hear your loved one’s name,  
please go to the nearest candle tray and light your candle if you wish.

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# Reading: We Remember Them

By Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,

We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,

We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,

We remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

We remember them.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends,

We remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,

We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share, we remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,

We remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,

We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live;

For they travel with us in our hearts and memories.

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# Vocalise/Sister Sing

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# Reading: Candlelit Heart by Mary E. Linton

Somewhere across the winter world tonight  
You will be hearing chimes that fill the air;  
Christmas extends its all-enfolding light  
Across the distance...something we can share.

You will be singing, just the same as I,  
These familiar songs we know so well,  
And you will see these same stars in your sky  
And wish upon that brightest one that fell.

I shall remember you and trim my tree,  
One shining star upon the topmost bough;  
I will hang wreaths of faith that all may see --  
Tonight I glimpse beyond the here and now.

And all the time that we must be apart  
I keep a candle in my heart.

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# Carol: Once in Royal David’s city

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.

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.

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.

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.

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# Reading: From ‘The house at Pooh corner’ by A. A. Milne

*Narrator:* Then suddenly again, Christopher Robin, who was still looking at the world,

with his chin in his hands, called out

*Christopher Robin:* Pooh!

*Pooh:*  Yes?

*Christopher Robin:* When I’m… when… Pooh!

*Pooh:*  Yes, Christopher Robin?

*Christopher Robin:* I’m not going do nothing any more.

*Pooh:* Never again?

*Christopher Robin:* Well, not so much. They don’t let you…..

[Pooh waited for him to go on, but he was silent again]

*Pooh:* Yes, Christopher Robin?

*Christopher Robin:* Pooh, when I’m - *you* know - when I’m *not* doing nothing,  
 will you come up here sometimes?

*Pooh:*  Just me?

*Christopher Robin:* Yes, Pooh.

*Pooh:* Will you be here too?

*Christopher Robin:*  Yes, Pooh, I will be *really*. I *promise* I will be, Pooh.

*Pooh:* That’s good.

*Christopher Robin:* Pooh, promise you won’t forget about me, ever.  
 Not even when I’m a hundred.

[Pooh thought for a little…]

*Pooh:* How old shall *I* be then?

*Christopher Robin:* Ninety-nine

[Pooh nodded]

Pooh: I promise.

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# Reflection

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**Vocalise / Sister Sing**

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**Prayers**

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**Reading: I Will Light Candles This Christmas**

By Howard Thurman

I will light Candles this Christmas;

Candles of joy despite all the sadness,

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,

Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all the year long.

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# Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing

Glory to the new-born King!

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim

Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! The herald angels sing

Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;

Christ the everlasting Lord;

Late in time behold Him come;

Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

Hail the incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with man to dwell;

Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing

Glory to the new-born King!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

Risen with healing in his wings,

Mild he lays his glory by,

Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing

Glory to the new-born King!

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In those quiet moments in the still of the night  
remember to rejoice and celebrate life.

Do not think of me gone and weep.

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on the grain.

I am the gentle autumn’s rain.

When you awaken in the morning hush

I am the swell uplifting rush

of quiet birds in flight.

I am the soft stars that shine.

You will hear my gentle voice

and remember to rejoice.

Never give up in your courage

and remember always

to Celebrate Life.

Anon

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# Blessing

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# Vocalise/ Sister Sing

###### Please join hospice staff and volunteers for refreshments after the service. Feel free to take photos of lanterns and candles as a memory of this evening.

##### Thank you for sharing in the special event and we wish you a peaceful Christmas.

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# Remembrance Tree

###### A Christmas tree will be in the hospice foyer until early January. You are welcome to come and place a message label on the tree in memory of a loved one. Labels will be available in reception.

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**Music: Harmony Plus**