

## **The Ultimate Guide to Organizing Christmas Caroling**

I love to go Christmas caroling! We used to go every Christmas—I really looked forward to going around the block and bringing a little extra Christmas cheer to all of our neighbors. Singing Christmas carols is a huge part of what makes Christmas special to so many people and a Christmas Caroling party is the perfect way for you to share Christ this Christmas!

If you want to throw a truly amazing Christmas Caroling Party that everyone will love, it will take a little of planning ahead. Following these few tips will guarantee that your party is something that will be remembered—both by the carolers and those who are blessed to hear the Christmas carols.

### **How to Organize a Christmas Caroling Party**

#### **1. Send invitations early**

The holidays are an incredibly busy time for everyone, so planning and inviting ahead of time is crucial. Send your invitations at least 2 weeks early for the best results—earlier if possible. Be sure to include an RSVP so that you have an accurate head count for your party. You definitely want enough singers—especially if you plan on singing harmony!

#### **2. Plan music ahead of time**

What music you plan will largely depend on the people who are coming to your Christmas Caroling Party. Classic Christmas Carols will do the trick! If you are hoping to sing music that is slightly more difficult and includes harmonies, you might want to send a list of the songs with your invitation. You could even include the sheet music with the invitation if you have it.

At the very least, be sure to print out song lyrics for your caroling friends. Not everyone knows the lyrics to every Christmas song, and it will make those who don't know them well, feel much more comfortable singing for others. See eight common Carols below for example. Print and staple multiple copies of this documents and refer to the page numbers when choosing the next song.

#### **3. Know your caroling route**

Map out where you will be caroling ahead of time. You may just want to do a specific neighborhood, which is easiest, or you may want to plan to go to particular people's homes, which will take a bit more planning. If you will be Christmas caroling outdoors, plan a circular route that will lead you right back to the start of the party—that way you can be singing all the way.

You could also plan to go caroling inside or outside a nursing home, retirement community, or hospital. People who are in those situations for the holidays are especially joyous recipients of Christmas carolers. Just make sure you have permission from the administration before you go.

#### **4. Practice beforehand**

Part of your Christmas Caroling Party should include practicing together before the real thing. Gather around the piano (or just the Christmas tree) and make sure everyone is comfortable

singing the music you have chosen. Since you'll be singing A Cappella, be sure to assign someone with a good ear the job of giving the starting pitch at each house.

### **5. Dress appropriately**

This depends on the weather, of course. Christmas caroling in California is going to look a lot different than Christmas caroling in Illinois! But not only is dressing for the weather important, so is dressing for the event. Remind your guests to look festive!

One easy way to look festive is to simply wear hats!

### **6. Give non-singers a job**

Some people hate singing, so Christmas caroling might not be their favorite thing. Help everyone feel part of the group by giving them a job like ringing jingle bells, passing out candy canes and be sure to hand out tracts or church information. The best part of Christmas caroling is watching the reactions of the people who open their doors to you. You don't need to be singing in order to have your heart grow three sizes because you're spreading Christmas cheer—jingle bell playing loud for all to hear is just as good as singing.

### **7. Provide something to light your way**

You can't light the world with Christmas carols if you have no light! Bring glowsticks or flashlights or lanterns in order to see where you are going.

### **8. Have a small gift ready to give**

I know you will already be giving the gift of music, but it's nice to give a little treat, too. You could do something as simple as candy canes, or request that everyone bring pre-packaged snacks hand out.

### **9. Warm up after caroling**

Invite your group back to your home to warm up after caroling.

There's something for everyone in this Christmas Caroling Party and it will definitely be a hit. Watch out, though, because it might also become a tradition—especially if your kids have anything to say about it!

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, thou rod of Jesse,  
free Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of of hell thy people save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
And drive away the shades of night  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
O come, O come, Thou Lord of might  
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height  
In ancient times did'st give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### **Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem**

Oh little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in the 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 wondering love  
Oh 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 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.

Oh 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.

### **Angels We Have Heard On High**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria In excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn king  
Gloria In excelsis Deo

See Him in a manger laid  
Whom the choirs of angels praise  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
our hearts in love we raise  
Gloria In excelsis Deo

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains of  
Gloria In excelsis Deo

## **Silent Night**

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,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

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

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.  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

## **O, Holy Night**

Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees  
Oh hear the angel voices  
Oh night divine  
Oh night when Christ was born  
Oh night divine (x2)

Led by the light, of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the wise men from Orient land  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

Fall on your knees  
Oh hear the angel voices  
Oh night divine  
Oh night when Christ was born  
Oh night divine (x2)

Truly He taught us, to love one another  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Fall on your knees  
Oh hear the angel voices  
Oh night divine  
Oh night when Christ was born  
Oh night divine (x2)

### **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored:  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the favored one.  
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see;  
Hail, th'incarnate Deity:  
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail! the heav'n-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 son of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"



## **Joy to The World**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessing flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

## **O, Come All Ye Faithful**

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!

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, alleluia,  
All ye choirs of angels;  
O sing, all ye blissful ones of heav'n above.  
Glory to God  
In the highest glory!

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be the glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in the flesh appearing,

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.