

Carols for Covid-tide

Bringing Comfort and Joy into a
difficult Year

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.**

**And at last
our eyes 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.**

**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.**

**There His children gather round,
bright like stars,
with glory crowned.**

*C F Alexander (1818-95)
altd Horrobin/Leavers*

**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.***

**True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, He abhors not
the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
begotten, not created;**

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

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God,
glory in the highest;**

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

tr J F Wade (1710-1786)

**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 wondering 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.

**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!**

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

**Ding dong merrily on high,
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing:**

***Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!***

**E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and "i-o, i-o, i-o!"
by priest and people sungen.**

***Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!***

**Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers.
May you beautifully rhyme
your eve'time song, ye singers.**

***Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!***

traditional

**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 Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams Thy holy face**

**with the dawn
of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
v1 & 3 tr. J F Young (1863)
v2 tr. anon*

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy
and they gave him
the name of Jesus.**

***He come from the Glory,
He come
from the Glorious Kingdom,***

*He come from the Glory,
He come
from the Glorious Kingdom,
Oh yes, Believer,
oh, yes, Believer
He come from the Glory,
He come
from the Glorious Kingdom.*

**The angels sang
when the baby was born,
the angels sang
when the baby was born,
the angels sang
when the baby was born,
and proclaimed Him
the Saviour Jesus.**

***He come from the Glory,
He come
from the Glorious Kingdom,
He come from the Glory,
He come
from the Glorious Kingdom,
Oh yes, Believer,
oh, yes, Believer
He come from the Glory,
He come
from the Glorious Kingdom.***

West-Indian Spiritual

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.**

***O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;***

O tidings of comfort and joy.

**From God our heavenly Father
a holy angel came;
the shepherds saw the glory
and heard the voice proclaim
that Christ was born in Bethlehem
and Jesus was his name.**

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**“Fear not,” then said the angel,
“Let nothing cause you fright;
to you is born a Saviour
in David’s town tonight –
to free all those who trust in Him
from Satan’s power and might.”**

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**Now to the Lord sing praises
all people in this place!
With Christian love and fellowship**

**each other now embrace;
and let this Christmas festival
all bitterness displace.**

***O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.***

traditional

**In the bleak mid-winter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.**

**Our God,
heaven cannot hold Him,
nor earth sustain.
Heaven and earth
shall flee away
when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and Archangels
may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air:
but His mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.**

**What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him:
give my heart.**

C G Rossetti (1830-94)

**A Christmas Message
from the Rector**

**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 a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,**

**Pleased as man
with man 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 Sun of Righteousness!

**Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n 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 newborn King!”***

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**May God grant you and your families
a safe and peaceful Christmas,
and may you know His blessing and love
throughout 2021**

**Church services continue in-person and
online (link for this and other things at
www.hunsdonchurch.org)**

**Our thanks, once again,
to Bishop's Stortford Brass Band
for accompanying our singing**

**Your donations will support the work of the
Salvation Army in Harlow**

Thank you