



# Bethlehem Carol Sheet 54<sup>th</sup> Edition

## 1. Unto us a son is born

*Puer nobis nascitur 15th century trans. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

1. Unto us a Son is born!

King of all creation;  
Came He to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of every nation,  
The Lord of every nation.

2. Cradled in a stall was He,  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That He all men surpasses,  
That He all men surpasses.

3. Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince,' he said 'in Jewry!'  
All the little boys he killed  
At Beth-lem in his fury,  
At Beth-lem in his fury.

4. Now may Mary's son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us,  
Unto the joys above us.

5. He the source and He the end!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While our happy voices rend  
The jocund air asunder,  
The jocund air asunder.

## 2. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy

*Traditional West Indian*

1. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
and they say that his name was Jesus.

*He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory  
he come from the glorious kingdom.*

*O yes! Believer, O yes! Believer,  
He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious kingdom.*

2. The angels sang when the babe was born,  
The angels sang when the babe was born,  
The angels sang when the babe was born,  
and proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus.  
*He come from the glory, ...*

3. The wise men saw where the baby was born,  
The wise men saw where the baby was born,  
The wise men saw where the baby was born,  
and they say that his name was Jesus.  
*He come from the glory, ...*

### **3 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

1. 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.

2. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all the earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love;

3. 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.

4. 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.

## **4 Once in Royal David's City**

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

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.
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;  
when like stars His children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

## **5 As with Gladness men of old**

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

1. As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led to Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare,  
at Thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee our Heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5. In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light,  
Thou its light, its Joy, its Crown,  
thou its Sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
Hallelujahs to our King.

## 6 The First Nowell

*From William Sandys' Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern (1833) alt.*

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay:  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
born is the King of Israel!*

2. They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

3. And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

6. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
who hath made heaven and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind has bought.

## 7 Away in a Manger

*William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
    looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!  
    Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

## 8 See amid the winter's snow

*Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

1. See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the Lamb of God appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn,  
hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

2. Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he, who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn...*

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountains steep?  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn...*

4. As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels, singing peace on earth,  
told us of a Saviour's birth:  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn...*

5. Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was Thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss,  
down to such a world as this!  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn...*

6. Teach, O teach us Holy Child,  
by Thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble Thee  
in Thy sweet humility:  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn...*

## **9 On Christmas night all Christians sing**

*Traditional English carol*

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
on Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.
2. Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin He set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty.
3. When sin departs before His grace,  
then life and health come in its place,  
when sin departs before His grace,  
then life and health come in its place,  
angels and we with joy may sing,  
all for to see the new-born King.
4. All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
now and for evermore. Amen.'

## **10 While Shepherds Watched**

*Nahum Tate*

1. While shepherds watched  
    their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the Angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not,' said he, (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled minds)  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.
3. To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:
4. The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace,  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease

## **11 The holly and the ivy**

*Traditional*

1. The holly and the ivy,  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown.

*Oh, the rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer,  
the playing of the merry organ,  
sweet singing in the choir.*

2. The holly bears a blossom,  
white as the lily flower,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
to be our sweet Saviour.

3. The holly bears a berry,  
as red as any blood,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
to do poor sinners good.

4. The holly bears a prickle,  
as sharp as any thorn,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
on Christmas day in the morn.

5. The holly bears a bark,  
as bitter as any gall,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
for to redeem us all.

6. The holly and the ivy,  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown.

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

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

1. 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 th' angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a 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*

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild He lays his glory by,  
born that we 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*

### **13 O Come all ye faithful**

*John Francis Wade (1711-1786) trans. Frederick  
Oakeley (1802-1880)*

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
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!*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him...*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him...*



## 14 Christians Awake!

*John Byrom (1692-1763) alt.*

1. Christians, awake! salute the happy morn,  
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love,  
which hosts of angels chanted from above:  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
to you and all the nations on the earth;  
this day hath God fulfilled His promised word,  
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

3. O may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;  
trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
from the poor manger to the bitter cross;  
tread in His steps assisted by His grace,  
till our first heavenly state again takes place.

4. Then may we hope,  
the angelic hosts among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all His glory shall display;  
saved by His love, incessant we shall sing  
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

## 15 Silent Night

*Joseph Mohr, (1792-1848) trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)*

1. Silent night, holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright,  
round the virgin mother and child;  
holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quail at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night.  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace:  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## 16 Joy to the World

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748) based on Psalm 98, alt.*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heaven and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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, and wonders of His love.

## 17 Of the Father's love begotten

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413) trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.*

1. Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending He,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

2. O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed His sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;  
angel hosts His praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before Him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

## 18 Ding dong merrily on high

*George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)*

1. Ding dong! merrily on high  
In heaven the bells are ringing;  
ding dong! verily the sky  
is riv'n with angels singing.  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis...*

2. 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...*

3. Pray you, dutifully prime  
your matin chimes, ye ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis...*

## **19 Angels from the realms of glory**

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship  
Christ, the new-born King:  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Come and worship...*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar:  
seek the great Desire of Nations;  
ye have seen His natal star;  
*Come and worship...*

4. Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in His temple shall appear:  
*Come and worship...*

## **20 Good King Wenceslas**

*John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.*

1. Good King Wenceslas look'd out  
on the feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about,  
deep, and crisp, and even;  
brightly shone the moon that night,  
though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight,  
gathering winter fuel.

Men            'Hither, page, and stand by me,  
if thou know'st it, telling,  
yonder peasant, who is he,  
where and what his dwelling?'

- Women `Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
underneath the mountain,  
right against the forest fence,  
by Saint Agnes' fountain.'
- Men 'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,  
bring me pine logs hither:  
Thou and I will see him dine,  
when we bear them thither.'
- All Page and monarch, forth they went,  
forth they went together;  
through the rude wind's wild lament,  
and the bitter weather.
- Women 'Sire, the night is darker now,  
and the wind blows stronger;  
fails my heart, I know not how;  
I can go no longer.'
- Men `Mark my footsteps good, my page;  
tread thou in them boldly:  
thou shalt find the winter's rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.'
- All In his master's steps he trod,  
where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod  
which the Saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
wealth or rank possessing,  
ye who now will bless the poor,  
shall yourselves find blessing.

## **21 God rest you merry gentlemen**

*Traditional, alt.*

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born upon this day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:

*And it's tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. At Bethlehem, in Judah,  
The Holy babe was born,  
they laid Him in a manger,  
on this most happy morn;  
at which His mother Mary  
did neither fear nor scorn:  
*And it's tidings of comfort and joy...*

3. 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 is His name:  
*And it's tidings of comfort and joy...*

4. '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  
*And it's tidings of comfort and joy...*

5. The shepherds at these tidings  
rejoiced in heart and mind,  
and on the darkened hillside,  
they left their flocks behind  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this Holy child to find:  
*And it's tidings of comfort and joy...*

6. And when to Bethlehem they came,  
Where Christ the infant lay,  
they found Him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
And there beside her newborn child  
His mother knelt to pray:  
*And it's tidings of comfort and joy...*

7. 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:  
*And it's tidings of comfort and joy...*

## **22 In the bleak mid-winter**

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

1. 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 mid-winter, long ago.

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

3. Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but His mother only  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

4. 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.

## **23 Infant holy, Infant lowly**

*Trans. from the Polish by Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed (1885-1933).*

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new;  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow,  
Christ the babe was born for you,  
Christ the babe was born for you.

## **24 Good Christians all rejoice**

*John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.*

1. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before Him bow,  
and He is in the manger now:  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

2. Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blessed for evermore:  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this.

3. Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save;  
calls you one, and calls you all,  
to gain His everlasting hall:  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save.

## **25 It came upon the midnight clear**

*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) alt.*

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
`Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on heavenly wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angels' strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love-song which they bring;  
Oh hush the noise ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## **26 We three Kings of Orient are**

*John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891), alt.*

1. We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we travel afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring, to crown Him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

*O star of wonder...*

3. Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, all are raising,  
worship Him, God most high.

*O star of wonder...*

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*O star of wonder...*

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Heaven sings, 'Alleluia!'  
'Alleluia!' the earth replies.

*O star of wonder...*

***Please give generously to church funds.  
There are card readers as well as cash  
collections.***

***We are very grateful to Richard and Jane  
Shardlow for organizing the bar. All  
proceeds from the sales tonight will be  
going to the church.***

