

CHRISTMAS BALLAD

Joseph and Mary were living in Galilee,
when Caesar demanded a census by his decree.
They had to travel to Bethlehem,
which was a very long way for them,
and Mary would soon, so soon, deliver her child.

They set out at once, though the trip would be rough,
they could see.
They made no complaint, for they knew this was how it must be.
Mary went happily from the start.
She carried the love-light in her heart,
for Mary would soon, so soon deliver her child.

When they arrived, Mary knew that her moment had come.
Joseph went searching for shelter still offered to some.
But strangers were suspect and hearts were hard.
The hopes and the homes of the world were barred,
and Mary would soon, so soon, deliver her child.

So in the dirt and the damp and the dark of a cave,
took flesh all the love and the life that our God ever gave...
a beautiful burst of a brilliant sun,
a once-in-a-lifetime, seen by none,
for Mary had quietly, simply delivered her child.

Words and music: Miriam Therese Winter
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WONDERFUL

Now the emptiness of ages proclaims the promised birth.
Hope to help unhappy hearts. Love to light the earth.
And he shall be called Wonderful! He shall be called Peace.
For to us a Son has been given, to us the Lord is born.
He will govern with justice and joy, consoling those who mourn.
And he shall be called Comforter. He shall be called Peace.

Streams will wash away the desert as he goes passing by.
Those in need will turn to him. He will hear their cry.
And he shall be called Wonderful! He shall be called Peace.
He will lead His flock like a shepherd and call us each by name.
He will walk in the favor of God, and we shall do the same.
And he shall be called Comforter. He shall be called Peace.

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CHILD OF MORNING

Sing a song to the Child of Morning, sing for the King is coming.
To the maid to whom he was born, sing to her brave becoming.
Sing of a peace he will bring again,
peace and fellowship to all men.
Sing glory to God in the highest.

Sing a song to the Child of Sorrow,
sing for the dream returning.
Love today and laugh tomorrow,
sing for the things we're learning.
Love the invisible now appears,
with time to be tender and time for tears.
Sing glory to God in the highest.

Sing a song to the Child of Morning,
sing for the child that's crying.
Big black headlines scream a warning ...
sing for the dead and dying.
The Child of the morning must be slain,
yet a sliver of light and hope remain.
Sing glory to God in the highest.

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HE COMES

Who do you bear in your heart, Mary, who?
Who do you bear in your heart, Mary, who?
In my heart I bear a son, the God and friend of everyone.
He comes to save his people from their sins.

What is the Savior's name, Mary, what?
What is the Savior's name, Mary, what?
His name is Jesus, Christ and Lord. In him salvation is restored.
He comes to save his people from their sins.
When will the Savior come, Mary, when?
When will the Savior come, Mary, when?
When love is cold and hope has died, he'll come as love personified.
He comes to save his people from their sins.

Where will the Savior be born, Mary, where?
Where will the Savior be born, Mary, where?
He's born of you, he's born of me.
Who welcomes him, there he will be.
He comes to save his people from their sins.

Why does the Savior come, Mary, why?
Why does the Savior come, Mary, why?
This is the wondrous mystery, to which love is the root and key.
He comes to save his people from their sins.

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SING OF BIRTH

On a cold and lonely night in the hills of a land called Judah,
there shone a star so big and bright, that all the fields reflected light,
and shepherds marveled at the sight and sang their alleluia.

Refrain

Sing, you people, sing of birth. Christ our God has come to earth.
Sing, you people, sing of birth. Christ, our God, has come to earth.

Verses 2 and 3

In a simple cattle shed in the hills of a land called Judah,
on a straw-filled manger bed, the Son of God lay down his head.
A king chose common ways instead! O sing an alleluia. *Refrain*
You who are born of poverty in a modern town or ghetto ...
God allows that this should be. He chose to make you just as he.
He'll come again to set you free, so sing your alleluia. *Refrain*

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IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Through Him all things came to be,
all things had life in Him and He was the light, the light
in the darkness of the night.

And then a man was sent by God,
he was a witness, his name was John.
He came as witness to the light.
He came that everyone might believe again
that the light enlightens men.

And so the Word was in the world,
with His own people, His own domain.
The world had its being through the Word,
and yet His message was not heard, alone, unknown,
rejected by His own.

And by the will of God himself,
the Word was with us, the Word was flesh.
He lived among us, side by side.
We saw His glory far and wide. He touched our race,
full of truth and grace. In the beginning was the Word.

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SILENT THE NIGHT

Silent the night. Strange were the people.
 Lonely the flight chasing a star.
 God came to earth, a quiet birth.
 He was real to our touch, and he seemed very much
 as we are.

Love and be warm, though doubt surrounds you.
 After the storm comes a new day.
 How long before men die no more,
 or what matter your skin, you'll find room at the inn,
 come what may.

Silent the night. Silenced the people.
 Not calm nor bright, but angry and worn.
 The people cry, as he passes by,
 and continue to grope toward that thin shred of hope
 this Christmas morn.

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TAKE COURAGE*Refrain*

Strengthen all the weary hands,
 steady all the trembling knees.
 Say to all faint hearts, "Take courage!"
 For He comes, the Prince of Peace.

Verses

The blind eyes shall be opened
 and the ears of the deaf unsealed.
 The crooked shall be straightened
 and the hidden thoughts revealed. *Refrain*

A little child shall lead us
 from the darkness of the past.
 Though stubbornness impede us,
 we shall know a peace at last. *Refrain*

One morning in a manger
 brought our exile to an end.
 The Lord came as a stranger
 and became our saving friend.

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NO LONGER ALONE

Out of the silence the Almighty Word,
 speaking like thunder, filled us with wonder,
 told us He loved us, told us He cared,
 told us He'd come if we really prepared.

Into the night came the Light of the world.
 God-light revealing, tenderly healing.
 Darkness was over. Morning began.
 God came to earth and He came as a man.

Welcome to Love, we're no longer along.
 In joy and sorrow, today and tomorrow,
 Love will be with us. Love's here to stay.
 Sing every morning: "It's Christmas today!"

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O WHAT A HAPPENING

On a dark day deep in December,
 grinding the poverty, grey was the morn.
 Only the clean of heart still can remember
 the day and the moment when Jesus was born.

Refrain

O what a happening! Christians, rejoice!
 Lift up your hearts! Lift up your voice!
 O what a happening! Our life began
 when Jesus our God became a man.

Verse 2

On a dark day deep in the present,
 grinding the loneliness and plight of the poor.
 Only the clean of heart dare to remember,
 the poor were His Gospel and their hope is sure. *Refrain*

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SONG OF GLORY

God's own Son has come to earth, Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
 Celebrate His wonderful birth. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
 Hear the good news of this Word. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
 Share the sound of hope we've heard. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.
 God of love: Glory to God.

God of splendor: Glory to God.

God of peace: Glory to God. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

All the love since time began, Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Lives within this wonderful man. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Everything that was and is, Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Finds new life in this love of His. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

God of earth: Glory to God.

God of people: Glory to God.

God of peace: Glory to God. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Praise to the God who sets us free. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Praise to the God who lets us be. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Praise to the Father and the Son. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Praise to the Spirit in everyone. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Let us sing: Glory to God.

Sing His praises: Glory to God.

Sing of peace: Glory to God. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

Glory, glory, sing, glory to God. Glory, glory, sing, glory to God.

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PEACE UPON EARTH

Peace upon earth is the prayer we offer.

Peace was the promise when Jesus was born.

Peace to all men. Peace once again to this
 war-weary, war-worried world this morn.

Life of the world, and a new beginning,
 bright as a star-night when our light is dim.
 His Word will live. Hurry to give Him
 the whole of our lives, let us welcome Him.

Glory to God in His might and power,
 once but a child as the Father had planned.
 Pray now that we one day might be but a
 moment of peace cradled in His hand.

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