

# Stillness and Joy

## *Texts and Translations*

### **Comfort, Comfort**

“Comfort, comfort now my people: Tell of peace!” So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over, God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight was long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

### **Before the Marvel of this Night**

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;  
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
sing love, sing God is love!

### **A Christmas Hymn**

A stable lamp is lighted, whose glow shall reach the sky,  
the stars shall bend their voices, and every voice shall cry,  
and straw like gold shall shine,  
a barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.  
Alleluia!

This child, through David’s city, shall ride in triumph by,  
the palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry,  
though heavy, dull, and dumb,  
and lie within the roadway, to pave His Kingdom come.  
Alleluia!

Yet He shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;  
the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men;  
God’s blood upon the spearhead, God’s love refused again.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high.  
The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry in praises of the child,  
by whose descent among us, the worlds are reconciled!  
Alleluia!

## **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 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.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

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!

## **The Beautiful Mother**

The beautiful mother is bending low, where her baby lies.  
Helpless and frail for her tending, but she knows the glorious eyes.  
The mother smiles and rejoices, while baby laughs in the hay.  
She listens to heavenly voices: "The child will be King one day."

All nations draw near to the manger low on this holy night.  
Surely as shepherds and kings they come, to know the glorious sight.  
O see the angels before him, who rule the earth with their might,  
with Joseph and Mary adore him, in stillness behold the light.

## **Christmas Hymn**

Son of God and Virgin Mother, Word made flesh, Emmanuel,  
Son of Man, our very brother, hope for all on earth do dwell.  
Light in darkness, promised Savior, shine in us for all to see:  
rule the world with peace and justice, come to set your people free.

Unto us a child is given, unto us a child is born.  
Lord of earth and Lord of Heaven, comes to us on Christmas morn.  
Hope for all who dwell in sadness, love for all who live in shame.  
Fragile babe, yet mighty Savior, name above all other names.

Kings and prophets, seers, and sages, visitors from near and far,  
praise the gift of endless ages sleeping 'neath the guiding star.  
Magi bearing gifts most precious humbly bow on bended knee.  
Hail the newborn King of glory, welcome heaven's mystery.

All the earth proclaims the glory, every nation, every town!  
Let all people sing the story of the night when love came down.  
Sound the trumpet, raise your voices, brother, sister, stranger, friend!  
Hail the Christ, our Lord and Savior, source of grace that has no end!

## **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:  
O give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger no. Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:  
now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:  
now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save!

### A Christmas Carol

Little star of Bethlehem, do we see Thee now?  
Do we see Thee shining o'er the tall trees?  
Little child of Bethlehem, do we hear Thee in our hearts?  
Hear the angels singing: peace on earth, goodwill to men! Noel!

O'er the cradle of a King, hear the angels sing: *in excelsis Gloria, Gloria!*  
From His Father's home on high, lo for us He came to die;  
hear the angels sing: *venite adoremus Dominum!*

### 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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

### The Father's Love

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.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when halfspent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air  
(Isaiah 'twas foretold it. This is he whom heav'n taught singers)  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere  
(sang of old with one accord, whom the Scriptures of the prophets)  
True man but very God. (promised in their faithful word;)  
From sin and death he saves us, (now he shines, the long expected;)  
and lightens every load, (let creation praise its Lord)  
evermore and evermore. Chris Lord, forever more.

### The First Nowell

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.

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.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who made the heavens and earth of naught, and with his blood our life has bought.

Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

## The Glory of the Father

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.  
In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.  
In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.  
He came to his own, and own received Him not.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.