

Hymns of the Incarnation

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719
(#195)

Joy to the world! The Lord is 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 heav'n, and heav'n 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 blessings 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.

TUNE: ANTIOCH C.M. rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.
(#203)

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!"

Refrain

*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 Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

Come, Desire of nations, come!
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head;
Adam's image now efface,
Stamp Thy image in its place
O' to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart.

Refrain

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D.ref.
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin hymn

Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751

Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.
(#208)

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;

Refrain

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

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, He abhors
Not the Virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten,
Not created;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
Of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest;

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee
Be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Late in flesh appearing;

Refrain

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English carol, 18th cent.

Stanzas 1, 2 (#211)

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray;

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father,
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

Refrain

TUNE: GOD REST YOU MERRY
8.6.8.6.8.6.ref.
English melody, 18th cent.

Psalm 98:1-4

- 1 O sing a new song to the LORD
For wonders He has done, (2x)
His right hand and His holy arm
The victory have won.
- 2 The great salvation wrought by Him
Jehovah has made known. (2x)
His justice in the nations' sight
The Lord has clearly shown.
- 3 He mindful of His grace and truth
To Isr'el's house has been. (2x)
The great salvation of our God
All ends of earth have seen.
- 4 O all the earth, sing to the LORD
And make a joyful sound. (2x)
Lift up your voice aloud to Him;
Sing psalms! Let joy resound!

TUNE: DESERT CM (98A) or
ANTIOCH CM
Based on *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Paul Gerhardt, 1653
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.
Stanzas 1,2,6,7 (#217)

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear far and near
Sweetest angel voices.
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing
Till the air ev'rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

Forth today the Conqu'ror goeth,
Who the foe, sin and woe,
Death and hell, o'erthroweth.
God is man, man to deliver;
His dear Son now is one
With our blood forever.

Come, then, banish all your sadness,
One and all, great and small;
Come with songs of gladness.
Love him who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far
Light and joy bestowing.

Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish,
Though my breath fail in death,
Yet I shall not perish,
But with thee abide forever
There on high, in that joy
Which can vanish never.

TUNE: WARUM SOLLT' 8.3.3.6.8.3.3.6.
Johann G. Ebeling, 1666

What Child Is This

Traditional English carol
Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865
(#213)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

TUNE: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.ref.
English melody, 16th cent.

Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, 11-12, 19

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| 1 | O God, Thy judgments give the
King
His reigning Son thy righteousness; | 8 | From sea to sea shall be His sway,
And from the River to earth's end. |
| 2 | He to Thy people right shall bring,
With justice shall Thy poor redress. | 11 | All kings shall down before Him
fall,
All nations His commands obey. |
| 3 | The heights shall bring prosperity,
The hills bring peace by
righteousness; | 12 | He'll save the needy when they call,
The poor, and those that have no
stay. |
| 4 | He'll judge the poor, the wronged set
free,
And crush the men who them oppress. | 19 | And blessed be His glorious name,
Long as the ages shall endure.
O'er all the earth extend his fame,
Amen, amen, for evermore. |
| 7 | The just shall flourish in His day;
While lasts the moon shall peace
extend; | | |

TUNE: PUER NOBIS LM

The First Noel

Traditional English carol, 17th c.
Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833
Stanzas 1, 7

The first Noel 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.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of
nought,
And with His blood mankind hath
bought.

Refrain

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French carol
(#214)

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'n-ly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

TUNE: GLORIA 7.7.7.7.ref.
Traditional French melody
Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Traditional English carol, Mod.
(#227)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring; (2x)
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad; (2x)
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace,
Then life and health come in its place; (2x)
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night; (2x)
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen."

TUNE: SUSSEX CAROL 8.8.8.8.8.8.
Traditional English carol
Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1919

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks, 1868
(#201) *Stanzas 1, 4*

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.

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.

TUNE: ST. LOUIS C.M.D.irreg.
Lewis H. Redner, 1868