

NATIVITY CAROL

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.
Refrain: *Far away silent he lay, Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.*

Cradled by mother so fair, Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky. (Refrain)

Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare, Hearts with his warmth he fills. (Refrain)

Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe, Make me thy love to know. (Refrain)

Words and Music (1967); John Rutter (b. 1945)

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UNTO US A BOY IS BORN

Unto us a boy is born, King of all creation
Came he to a world forlorn, The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see that he all men surpasses.

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

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

Omega and Alpha he; let the organ thunder
While the choir with peals of glee doth rend the air asunder.

Words; Latin carol, 15th century, tr. by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)
Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582); arr. D. Willcocks (1919-2015), W. Llewellyn (b. 1925)

THE FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The festival of Lessons and Carols has a rich and cherished history in the English-speaking world. In 1880, E. W. Benson, Bishop of Truro in Cornwall and later Archbishop of Canterbury, drew up a service of lessons and carols for use on Christmas Eve in the wooden shed which served as his cathedral. In 1918 this service was adapted for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, and has since come to be used widely both in England and in this country. The service was first used at Lexington Presbyterian during the 1950s by the late Mary Monroe Penick, who served as the church's organist/director of music for 46 years until her retirement in 1977. The observance has continued with her successor, William McCorkle, and his handbell colleagues, the late Marjorie H. Phillips, and Ruth Warinner Floyd, and Mayumi Smitka. In conjunction with the service, Miss Penick instituted the practice of decorating the church sanctuary with wreaths, garlands, and poinsettias. Several of the choir and congregation carols have been used on a recurring basis.

Texts of the Choirs' Carols - December 19, 2021

BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS HEAVENLY LIGHT

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, And usher in the morning.
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, But hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking, Our peace eternal making.

from *The Christmas Oratorio* of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond.
Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been,
Ne had our lady A-been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

Words: Anonymous 15th century ~ Music (1957): Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Young Mary went down to Bethlehem.
Bethlehem, Bethlehem, City of our Savior's birth.

Shepherds come, shepherds come, The shepherds come down to Bethlehem.
Shepherds come, shepherds come, Witness to our Savior's birth.

Angels say, angels say, Be not afraid in Bethlehem.
Angels say, angels say, Herald to our Savior's birth.

Jesus come, Jesus come, Christ born today down in Bethlehem.
Jesus come, Jesus come, Child of the Lord most high.

Words: Michael Jacob Kooiman ~ Music (2007): William McCorkle (© 2007)

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OUR LADY AND CHILD

Lady, I sing to thee Tender humility,
Puzzling the grace In thy Son's face.
Lacy that lookest far, Of voyagers the star,
Thou gavest sight To the world's light.
Holy Lacy that stood Under the cruel rood,
That did'st borrow Thy Son's sorrow.
Lady, I sing to thee, Crowned in eternity,
Blest in the grace Of thy Son's face.

Words: Victor de Wael (b. 1929) ~ Music (1980): Philip Moore (b. 1943)

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I WONDER AS I WANDER

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.
For poor ornery people like you and like I:
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,
With wise-men and farmers and shepherds and all.

But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'Cause he was the King!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.
For poor ornery people like you and like I:
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Words and Music: Appalachian carol, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

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I AM FOR YOU

Before the world began, One Word was there;
Grounded in God he was, Rooted in care;
By him all things were made, In him was love displayed;
Through him God spoke, and said, "I AM FOR YOU."

Life found in him its source, Death found its end;
Light found in him its course, Darkness its friend.
For neither death nor doubt Nor darkness can put out
The glow of God, the shout, "I AM FOR YOU."

The Word was in the world Which from him came;
Unrecognized he was, Unknown by name;
One with all humankind, With the unloved aligned,
Convincing sight and mind, "I AM FOR YOU."

All who received the Word By God were blessed,
Sisters and brothers they Of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of Grace Proclaim in time and space
And with a human face, "I AM FOR YOU."

Words (paraph. John 1:1-14): John Bell and Graham Maule, Iona Community
Music (1987 - tune: *Incarnation*): John L. Bell (b. 1949)