

2022 Service of Lessons and Carols: Lyrics to Ensemble Pieces

Comfort, Comfort

Johann G. Olearius (tr. Catherine Winkworth);
arr. John Ferguson

“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 away!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his 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.

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Christina Rosetti; Harold Darke

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.

Our God, Heav’n cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain
Heav’n and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter, A stable place suffic’d,
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
Worship night and day
A breast full of milk
and a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him, whom Angels, Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

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.

Star in the East

from *The Southern Harmony*

Hail, the blest morn, see the great Mediator,
Down from the region of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Chorus:

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning!
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer was laid.*

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him, in slumbers reclining;
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall.

Chorus

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Eden, and offerings divine,
Gems from the mountain, and pearls from the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Chorus

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gold we his favour secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Chorus

Bethlehem Down

Bruce Blunt; Peter Warlock

“When he is King we will give him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in gravesheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Choral from “The Christmas Oratorio”
Johann Sebastian Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly 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 pow'r of Satan breaking,
Our peace eternal making.

O Come, Little Children

Christoph Von Schmid;
Johann Abraham Peter Schulz;
arr. by Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becky Slagle Mayo

Oh, come, little children,
Oh, come, one and all!
Oh, come to the manger
In Bethlehem's stall,
The bright star will guide us
And show us the way
To Jesus, our Savior,
Asleep on the hay.

Come, little children,
Come, come to Bethlehem.
Come, see the baby
Lying in a manger.
Come, little children,
Come, come to Bethlehem.
Come, see the newborn King!

Come see the shining star
Guiding us from afar,
Helping to show us the way.
Come, little children,
Come, come to Bethlehem.
Come, see the newborn King!

Jesus, the Light of the World

Charles Wesley; arr. by George Elderkin

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn King,"
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain:

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.*

Joyful, all you nations rise,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies;
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain