

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Luke 2:8-14

Edmund H. Sears, 1849; alt.



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, by proph-et bards fore-told,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way, with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and all the world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.



Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister who served a number of congregations in the Boston area, wrote this Christmas hymn emphasizing the social implications of the Gospel for his congregation at Wayland, Massachusetts.

Tune: CAROL C.M.D.
 Richard S. Willis, 1850

Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen

(Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

Isa. 11:1

German, 15th century; transl. Theodore Baker, 1894; alt.

1 Es ist ein' Ros ent-sprun-gen aus ein-er Wur-zel zart,
 1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem has sprung!
 2 I - sa-iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,

wie uns die Al-ten sun-gen: von Jes-se kam die Art
 Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as saints of old have sung.
 With Mar-y we be-hold it, the Vir-gin Moth-er kind.

und hat ein Blüm-lein bracht mit-ten im kal-ten
 It came a flower-et bright, a-mid the cold of
 To show God's love a-right, she bore to us a

der... hal-ben
 Win-ter wohl zu der hal-ben Nacht.
 win-ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav-ior, when half spent was the night.

Possibly dating from the fifteenth century, this anonymous hymn was first published in a Catholic hymnal in Germany, where the rose was held in special regard and was employed as a symbol for Mary or for Christ.

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1599
 Harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Away in a Manger

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Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.

Luke 2:7

F B \flat F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
 by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

F B \flat F

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
 love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and
 all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

C7 F B \flat C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 stay by my side un - til night turns to day.
 fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

This anonymous United States carol is often misattributed to Luther. The poem first appeared in a Lutheran hymnal for schools and families. Though he never credited himself with it, the tune most likely was composed by Murray.

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.
 (MÜLLER)
 Attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887