

# Carols for Midnight Mass

24 December 2020

## It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

A&MNS 41 (omit v.4)

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King!  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er it Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

5 For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

A&MNS 40

1 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of the heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 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.

## **O Come All Ye Faithful**

A&MNS 34

1 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!

2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created: [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest: [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]