



Bless  
the  
Manger-  
Child

# Bless the Manger-Child

A Collection of Twelve New Christmas Carols

for

Unison Voices

## Foreword

This little collection of original carols is gleaned from past issues of *Lutheran Education*. *Bless the Manger-Child* is made available with the permission of the editor of *Lutheran Education* as well as those who created these carols.

It has been customary for *Lutheran Education* to annually invite a composer to write an original carol for a fall/winter issue. The uniqueness of these carols in their textual as well as melodic content merit an exposure to the music world. Hence this collection.

Since all but 1 of the 12 carols are for unison voices, this collection is admirably suited for children's choirs as well as classroom use. Adult choirs might also find these carols a refreshing change from the traditional fare. *Bless the Manger-Child* may also find its way into the family circle during the holiday season—for a family gathering around the piano or as part of the Christian family's Advent/Christmas preparation.

Rod Schrank  
Epiphany 1976

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# What News This Bitter Night

HENRY L. LETTERMANN

RICHARD HILLERT

Slowly flowing

1 What news, what news this bit - ter night When  
2 What men are these who hur - ry past? What  
3 What Child is this, who sleep - ing makes The  
4 What shall I bring to hon - or Him, What

Slowly flowing

all is shut - tered in the gloom? No news ex - cept a  
won - der do they run to see? Shep - herds who heard the  
man - ger - throne His rest - ing place? None but the King of  
hom - age pay, what poor gift give? Naught but your heart which,

Ba - by born, Who finds with - in an ox - 's stall His nar - row room!  
her - ald song, Who haste in sta - ble to a - dore The mys - ter - y!  
heav - en high, Born in - to dy - ing to re - deem Our fall - en race!  
dead in sin, Finds in this Child for - giv - ing love And strength to live!

## The Carol of the Animals

ENNO KLAMMER

PAUL MANZ

*Tranquillo ed espressivo*

1 This night Lord Je - sus Christ is born, Al -  
 2 The owl perched on a beam a - bove, Al -  
 3 In old - en days a goat did take, Al -  
 4 The lamb kneeled down at Je - sus' feet, Al -

le - lu - ia! In low - ly sta - ble and for - lorn. Al - le - lu -  
 le - lu - ia! And asked, "Who is this Child of love?" Al - le - lu -  
 le - lu - ia! The peo - ple's sins up - on its back, Al - le - lu -  
 le - lu - ia! With trem - bling voice be - gan to bleat: Al - le - lu -

ia! Up - on this sight the beasts did gaze; And each one sang his  
 ia! They all to - geth - er ans - wer gave: "This is the Lord Christ,  
 ia! The goat said: "I will wor - ship Him, For He shall bear all  
 ia! "This Pas - chal Lamb from God on high Shall save men so they

song of praise. Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 come to save." Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 peo - ple's sin." Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 need not die." Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Last stanza optional*

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is born. Al - le - lu - ia! ia!

5 The lowly donkey could but bray, Alleluia!  
 "I served His mother well today." Alleluia!  
 "I carried her to David's town;  
 From Nazareth I brought her down."  
 Alleluia! Gloria! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia! Christ is born! Alleluia!

6 The cow did slowly move her head, Alleluia!  
 "I gave my manger for His bed." Alleluia!  
 "I'll let Him lie upon my hay;  
 I'll seek my food some other way."  
 Alleluia! Gloria! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia! Christ is born! Alleluia!

7 And we, too, bring our gift of joy, Alleluia!  
 For God has blessed us with this Boy. Alleluia!  
 We sing with angel choirs who say,  
 "Lord Jesus Christ is born today."  
 Alleluia! Gloria! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia! Christ is born! Alleluia!

# Lord, Bless the Manger-Child

HENRY L. LETTERMANN

RALPH C. SCHULTZ

1 When Je - sus comes — to Beth - le - hem — So se - cret si - lent -  
 2 When shep - herds in — the dew - y hills — Hear an - gels in the  
 3 When wise men from — the East ap - pear — To give the gifts of  
 4 When dark - ling shad - ows touch the Child, — Then we with Ma - ry

ly, — The mid - night glows with light of dawn In qui - et mys - ter -  
 sky, — They sing the shout that has no words For God' own lull - a -  
 praise, — Their rich per - fume of pov - er - ty His hum - ble wealth dis -  
 see — The bit - ter thorns and crown - ing cross Of joy - ous Cal - va -

y! — Lord, — bless the man - ger - child, And, Lord, bless me! —  
 by! — Lord, — bless the man - ger - child, And, Lord, bless me! —  
 plays! — Lord, — bless the man - ger - child, And, Lord, bless me! —  
 ry! — Lord, — bless the man - ger - child, And, Lord, bless me! —

# And When the Lord Said

HENRY L. LETTERMANN

GERHARDT C. BECKER

*Lento*

1 And when the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ said, \_\_\_\_\_ "Let \_\_\_\_\_ there be  
2 And when the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ said, \_\_\_\_\_ "Let \_\_\_\_\_ rain bows  
3 And when the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ said, \_\_\_\_\_ "Mar y, be  
4 And when the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ said, \_\_\_\_\_ "You \_\_\_\_\_ are my

light!" The light was grand to see, \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_  
be!" The Gos - pel burned the black, \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_  
lieve!" The sta - ble glowed with faith, \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_  
child!" His touch re - deemed my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_

Beth - le - hem was born!  
Beth - le - hem was born!  
Beth - le - hem was born!  
Beth - le - hem was born!

\* (#)



## Gabriel, You Brought to Mary

F. SAMUEL JANZOW

PAUL BOUMAN

1 Ga - bri - el, you brought to Mar - y Word \_\_\_\_\_ from  
 2 Mes - sen - ger to trou - bled Jo - seph, He \_\_\_\_\_ with  
 3 An - gel from the bright - est glo - ry Shin - ing  
 4 Ho - ly Ghost, grant faith like Mar - y's To \_\_\_\_\_ be -

God \_\_\_\_\_ that by His grace And the pow - er of His  
 won - der heard you tell That our God had cho - sen  
 in - to dark - est night, When your dawn - song to the  
 lieve \_\_\_\_\_ we are God's choice And be - long to Him who

Spir - it God \_\_\_\_\_ the Son \_\_\_\_\_ to join our race,  
 Mar - y Moth - er of \_\_\_\_\_ Im - man - u - el.  
 shep - herds Praised \_\_\_\_\_ the com - ing of the Light -  
 called \_\_\_\_\_ us; Help \_\_\_\_\_ us heed \_\_\_\_\_ our Shep - herd's voice

Would be born \_\_\_\_\_ Child \_\_\_\_\_ of the Vir - gin.  
 Did he make \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ home their ha - ven,  
 "Christ is born \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ save from dark - ness!" -  
 And o - bey \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ faith - ful Jo - seph

Did her \_\_\_\_\_ heart \_\_\_\_\_ that truth em - brace?  
 Trust - ing \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ in what be - fell?  
 Did they \_\_\_\_\_ go \_\_\_\_\_ to see the sight?  
 And come \_\_\_\_\_ flock \_\_\_\_\_ ing to re - joice

She \_\_\_\_\_ be - lieved, \_\_\_\_\_ and she \_\_\_\_\_ re - joiced.  
 He \_\_\_\_\_ be - lieved, \_\_\_\_\_ and he \_\_\_\_\_ o - beyed.  
 They \_\_\_\_\_ saw \_\_\_\_\_ Day - break, saw \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ Lord.  
 With \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ shep - herds in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Light.

## A Child Is Born, the Son of God

WALTER ROSIN

THEODORE BECK

1 A Child is born, the Son of God, a  
 2 The world is His, He is the Lord, The  
 3 All men need hope. We share the news So  
 4 Shout "Joy," bow down; say thanks to God the

mes - sen - ger from heav'n pro - claimed. He is the Christ; God's  
 ar - chi - tect who made it all. He is the Word; Yet  
 they can smile and hope once more. He is the Joy. This  
 Fa - ther, who in love for us has sent His Son, Who

love is seen, is seen in this e - ter - nal  
 He has bound, Has bound Him - self to us and  
 news that God, That God for - gives man's sins, frees  
 died, a - rose, A - rose, as - cend - ed so that

gift which — He has giv - en. Let us say, — “Thanks.”  
 come to — be our Broth - er. Let us bow — down.  
 us to — serve all peo - ple. Let us shout, — “Joy.”  
 we might — have His Spir - it. Let us sing — praise.

## The Timeless Gift

T. G.

THOMAS GIESCHEN

With simple joy (♩ = 100)

1 An - gels sang, “He comes at last.” So it was Christ - mas past.  
 2 Years to come As Christ - ians praise There will be Christ - mas days.  
 3 Here this day To Him we bow; And it is Christ - mas now.

Christ had come A gift of love; Christ - mas was be - gin - ning.  
 God's love is A time - less gift, Christ - mas for the fu - ture.  
 Joy in this For Je - sus is God's e - ter - nal pres - ent.

## The Black of Night in Bethlehem

HENRY L. LETTERMANN

RICHARD HILLERT

Not too fast

1 The black of night in Beth - le - hem Is light - ed by a  
 2 The dawn glows red in Beth - le - hem Up - on a north - ern  
 3 The in - no - cents of Beth - le - hem Are mer - ci - less - ly  
 4 In E - gypt green the grow - ing Child, In full o - be - di -

star. In se - cret, si - lent still - ness comes The  
 hill. With - in his pal - ace Her - od stirs, A  
 slain, And weep - ing fills the val - ley where The  
 ence, Pre - pares to change the black - ened earth To

Son of God — from far To — where His par - ents are!  
 gainst the morn - ing chill, To — work his wil - y will!  
 cold white snow — has lain Up - on the guilt - less plain!  
 red of pen - i - tence And — white of in - no - cence!

# The Precious Gift

HENRY L. LETTERMANN

RALPH C. SCHULTZ

1 The world in sin was fast a - sleep. The dark - ness cov - ered  
 2 With wea - ry heart the Vir - gin bore A moth - er's anx - ious  
 3 In mys - ter - y the Fa - ther sends The pre - cious gift of  
 4 He lies in dust - y sta - ble then, In man - ger of the

all. The voice of Jo - seph in the street Re - ech - oed from a  
 quest. In doubt God's par - ents stood be - fore The world's door seek - ing  
 light. His Son, our sub - sti - tute, de - scends, Re - deems us from the  
 ox; He comes in - to the hearts of men, An - nounced to hum - ble

wall, Re - ech - oed from a wall.  
 rest, The world's door seek - ing rest.  
 night, Re - deems us from the night.  
 flocks, An - nounced to hum - ble flocks.

## A Strangely Quiet Bethlehem

HENRY L. LETTERMANN

CARL SCHALK

1 A strange - ly qui - et  
2 No peace on earth — the  
3 Re - new a - gain — the

Beth - le - hem Lies mut - ed in the dust. — No shep - herds rouse — the  
her - alds hymn, No star to bright - ly shine. — No Jo - seph kneel - ing  
womb of time, Cre - ate the sta - ble bare, — That all may see — Thy

si - lent streets, No wise men seek — with trust! — To - day no burst of  
mute a - dores The Sav - ior Son — di - vine! — Lord, touch this tin - sel  
shep - herd - ing And know Thy lov - ing care! — Then may the an - gels

heav'n - ly light Turns dark - ness in - to day. — No Mar - y with a  
 dy - ing heart, That dark - ly yearns Thy birth! — Lord, send Thy gen - tle  
 leap with joy, And Ma - gi rich - ly give. — Then may the qui - et

sim - ple heart — Wraps God a - mid — the  
 warm - ing light — To kin - dle an - cient  
 Beth - le - hem — A - wake and sing — and

1. and 2. 3.  
 hay! —  
 earth! —  
 live! —



# On This Festal Christmastide

D. B.

DONALD BUSAROW

1 On this fes - tal — Christ - mas - tide, Sing we now both far — and wide:  
 2 God to man His — peace doth share As an an - swer to — man's prayer;  
 3 Vir - gin - born He — comes to take Ser - vant's form for man - kind's sake;  
 4 Hon - or, bless - ing, — Christ, be paid, Sav - ior, born of low - ly maid;

Al - le - lu - ia! Sing no - el! } Christ, our wel - come we ex - tend,  
 Man to God now sends his praise,  
 To His Fa - ther souls to win,  
 To the Fa - ther thanks we bring,

Hum - ble hearts be - fore Thee bend. } Al - le - lu - ia! Sing no - el!  
 Sings with joy His won - drous ways.  
 Saves His crea - tures from their sin.  
 And the Spir - it, prais - es sing.

# Five Christmas Refrains

W. L. P.

WALTER L. PELZ

Unison *f*

Be joy - ful — and sing, for Je - sus our — King is

\* Refrain (1)

born to - day. No - el! No - el! Now sing we — all no - el!

(2)

born to - day. Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia!

(4)

born to - day. Re - jice! Re - jice! Re - jice!

(5)

born to - day. Mer - ry Christ - mas! Mer - ry Christ - mas! Mer - ry Christ - mas!

(3)

Christ to us is born to - day!

97-5340

Five people are required for full realization of this piece, though as few as three can adequately perform it. Entire group sings verse "Be joyful . . . today" followed by person 1 singing refrain 1 (alone). Entire group repeats verse. Person 2 sings refrain 2 with person 1 singing refrain 1, together. Entire group repeats verse. Person 3 (male) sings refrain 3 together with persons 1 and 2 singing refrains 1 and 2 (three refrains simultaneously). Entire group repeats verse, etc.