

‘Singlish Folk’ Broadsheet No. 12 Christmas

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MARY HAD A BABY

Mary had a baby, yes Lord
Mary had a baby, yes my Lord
Mary had a baby, yes Lord
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

What did she name Him, yes Lord (3x)
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

She named Him Jesus, yes Lord (3x)
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

Where was He born, yes Lord (3x)
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

Born in a stable, yes Lord (3x)
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

And where did she lay Him, yes Lord (3x)
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

She laid Him in a manger, yes Lord (3x)
People keep a-comin’ an’ the train done gone

I SAW THREE SHIPS

1. I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day (2x)
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day in the morning.

2. And what was in those ships all three?

3. Our Saviour, Christ, and His Lady,

4. Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?

5. O, they sailed to Bethlehem,

6. And all the bells on earth shall ring,

7. And all the angels in heaven shall sing,

8. And all the souls on earth shall sing,

9. Then let us all rejoice and sing,

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes .
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by the cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray!
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven, to Live with Thee there.

CHERRY TREE CAROL

1. Mary and Joseph were walking one day
In a garden of cherries they happened for to stray (2x)

2. Mary spoke to Joseph so meek and so mild
‘Go gather me some cherries for I am with child’ (2x)

3. Joseph flew in anger, in anger flew he
‘Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee’ (2x)

3. Then up spoke baby Jesus from in Mary’s womb
‘Bow down the lowest branch so my mother might have
some’ (2x)

4. The bowed down the lowest branch, bowed low to the
Ground
Said she ‘Oh look thou Joseph I have cherries by
Command (2x)

5. Then Joseph took Mary upon his right knee
Said ‘Tell me pretty baby when your birthday will be’ (2x)

6. On the sixth day of January my birthday will be
When the elements will tremble and the stars will dance
with glee (2x)

THE HOLLY BEARS A BERRY (SANS DAY CAROL)

Now the Holly bears a berry as white as the milk
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk.

cho: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour to be
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.
Holly, holly,
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly.

Now the Holly bears a berry as green as the grass
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross.

Now the Holly bears a berry as black as the coal
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all.

Now the Holly bears a berry as blood is it red
Then trust we our Saviour who rose from the dead

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

1. Good King Wenceslas looked out,
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

2. "Hither page and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he,
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.

3. "Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither."
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Though the rude winds wild lament,
And the bitter weather.

4. "Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know now how,
I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page;
Tread thou in them boldly;
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

5. In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

THERE ARE NO LIGHTS ON OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

(Cyril Tawney)

The time has come for festivity
For Christmas pudding and revelry
But as I passed out the other night
I heard a small voice next to me:

chorus: There are no lights on our Christmas tree
We must not spoil the televue
No party games, no mistletoe
Just whistle "Wenceslas", and out you go.

'Bout once a year I become a square
I love to feel the tinsel in my hair
I love to hear the songs of days gone by
But dad and me we don't see eye-to-eye.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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 wondering love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth!

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
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. Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

5. 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!

The Christmas crackers from uncle Alf
They lie unopened upon the shelf
Dad has forbid them but we're hoping he
Won't notice one more bang in Laramy.

Some carol singers came to our door -
I've never seen dad so mad before.
He grabbed the leader by the coat
And tried to ram his lantern down his throat.

When I grow up and become a man
There'll be no television in my plan
With laughter gay my house will ring
I never want to hear my children sing: [chorus]

Copyright Cyril Tawney

MARY'S BOY CHILD

Harry Belafonte

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day

Chorus:

Hark, now hear the angels singing
A newborn King today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day
Trumpets sound and angels singing
Listen to what they say
That Man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day

2. While shepherds watch their flock by night
Then see a bright new shining star
Then hear a choir sing
Her music seemed to come from afar

3. Now, Joseph and his wife, Mary
Come to Bethlehem that night
Then find no place to born she child
Not a single room was in sight

4. By and by, they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little Boy was born

Repeat 1.

WHEN A CHILD IS BORN

A ray of hope flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up way up high
All across the land dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass when a child is born

A silent wish sails the seven seas
The winds of change whisper in the trees
And the wall of doubt crumbles dust and torn
This comes to pass when the child is born

The rosy view settles all around
You got the feel you're on solid ground
For a spell or two no one seems forlorn
This comes to pass when a child is born

And all this happens because the world is waiting
Waiting for one child Black, white, yellow, no one knows
This child who will grow up and turn tears to laughter
Hate to love, War to peace and everyone to everyone's
neighbour and misery and suffering will be words to be
forgotten forever

It's all a dream an illusion now
It must come true sometime soon somehow
And all across the land dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass when a child is born

Chords – For songs in Christmas songbooks 6 and 12

Merry Christmas

G C A D G Em CD G
G D A7 D G Em CD G

Little Drummer

C C F C, C C F C
G G G G, C Em Bb F
F C C G C C F C
G C ... G C

All through the night

C Am Dm G, F G C (2x)
F Dm F Am G
C Am Dm G, F G C

Mary's Boy Child

G C D G, G C D G
G C D G Em Am D
G C D G

Auld Lang Syne

G D G C, G D CD G
C G D G C
G D CD G (D)

Jingle Bells

G C D G, G C D G (D)
G G G G C GA7 D
G G G G C D G C

Deck the Halls

G G G G, C G D G (2x)
D G Em, G Em A7 D
G G G G, C G D G

Do you hear what I hear

C C C G (2x)
C C F C (2x)
C C C G (2x)
C C F C (2x)
Am Em F Em
F G C (G) int: C C C G (2x)

Away in a manger

C C C7 F, F C Dm G
C C C7 F, F C G C

Good King Wenceslas

C C Am G, F G C (2x)
C C Am, F G C
C C Am G C C F C

Cherry Tree Carol

C Am C G
F C F E
F C F G C

Twelve days of Christmas

C F G C
G (6 upwards)
C D G (5 gold rings)
C (4 calling birds)
F (3 French hens)
G (2 turtle doves)
C F G C

Rudolf

C ... G, G ... C (2x)
F F C C G G C C
G ... D.. G ...
C ... G, G ... C

Little town of Bethlehem

C C Am C F G C (2x)
C C Am Em C Dm G
C C Am C F G C

When a child is born

G D G
G C Am
Am D G
Em G D G

Mary had a baby

C C F C (2x)
C E F C, C C G C