

[1] Veni et illumina

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae:
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris et umbra mortis.

O Oriens (Great Antiphon for 21 December)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel.

Veni, veni, O Oriens,
solare nos adveniens.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Et lux in tenebris lucet.

John 1, 5

[Not sung: O morning star, brightness of light eternal,
and sun of justice: come, and illuminate those who sit
in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Come, O come, morning star
cheer us with your coming.

And the light shines in the darkness.]

[2] I wonder as I wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birth'd Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall
and the promise of the ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on a wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
he surely could have had it 'cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

[3] Missa carolae: Processional

Guillô, play your tambourin,
Robin with your flute begin,
Play your pipe and play your drum,
Turelurelu! Patapatapan!
Play your pipe and play your drum.
Sing Nowell to all and some!

Man of ancient days, he sings
In praise of the King of kings,
When you hear the pipe and drum
Turelurelu! Patapatapan!
When you hear the pipe and drum
You will know that the Saviour's come.

Provençal carol, translated by James Whitbourn

For unto us a child is born,
unto to us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The Almighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9, 6. King James Version

Dance and sing and leap with joy
At the birth of the infant boy.
Dance with pipe and dance with drum.
Turelurelu! Patapatapan!
Dance with pipe and dance with drum
For to us is born a Son.

Provençal carol, translated by James Whitbourn

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9, 2. King James Version

[4] Missa carolae: Kyrie

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

[5] Missa carolae: Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
Tu solus Dominus
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe,
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
to all those of good will.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
according to thy great glory,
Lord God, Heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou alone art holy,
Thou alone art the Lord,
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

[6] Winter's Wait

Days grow short, the dead leaves fall,
The mist is thick 'round the stable's wall.
Harvest's in, the fire is lit
The shepherds watch and sit –
And wait for the sun.

Hands grow numb in an icy cold,
The water's locked in its frozen hold.
Man and beast are most asleep
Across the floor a mouse creeps –
They wait for the sun.

Snow grows deep, a night owl sings
'Where are the Kings? Where are the Kings?'
Bright star shines in a velvet sky
But Oh! So bright, so high! –
All wait for the sun.

Sleep is over, the cold is past,
The star has shown the world at last
That death's defeated, Christ is come.
Man's wait is done, is done.
All praise to God's Son.

Robert Tear (1939-2011)

[7] Missa carolae: Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna, in the highest.

[8] Missa carolae: Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is He that comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

[9] The Magi's Dream

Night has come to Bethlehem,
The family is asleep,
Exhausted by the wonders seen,
The news outrageous, deep.
'That I may come and worship him.'

Ox and ass have closed their eyes,
Their ears now hear no sound.
Shepherds have gone back to their flocks,
The mouse still noses around.
'That I may come and worship him.'

Kings have left for their distant lands,
Fractious camels moan.
At a desert spring they make their farewells.
'It's a mighty way to home!'
'That I may come and worship him.'

Later that night their heads are filled
With a dream-drenched holy ray.
'Do not return to Herod the king,
Go back another way.'
'That I may come and worship him.'

And so our Christ is saved from death
His mission to complete
To change the world by selfless love
Satan's legions to beat.

Robert Tear

[10] Missa carolae: Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

[11] Coventry Carol

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay.
Lullay, thou little tiny child,

By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too,
How may we do,
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling,
For whom we do sing
By, by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the king,
In his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting nor say nor sing,
By, by, lully, lullay.

Medieval

[12] Of one that is so fair and bright

Of one that is so fair and bright,
Velut maris stella [as the star of the sea],
Brighter than the day is light:
Parens et puella [mother and maiden].
I cry to thee to turn to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia [so tender],
That I may come to thee,
Maria!

In sorrow, counsel thou art best,
Felix fecundata [happy with a fruitful womb].
For all the weary thou art rest,
Mater honorata [honoured mother].
Beseech him in thy mildest mood,
Who for us did shed his blood
In cruce [on the cross],
That we may come to him
In luce [in light].

Lady, flow'r of ev'rything,
Rosa sine spina [rose without a thorn],
Thou bore Jesus, Heaven's King,
Gratia Divina [by divine grace].
Of all I say thou bore the prize,
Lady, Queen of Paradise,
Electa [chosen];
Maiden mild, mother
Ec Effecta [also created].

Medieval

[13] Hodie

Hodie Christus natus est.
The holy child is born.
In his love man's hope does rest
On this eternal morn.

Cherubs with trumpets shatter the stars.
Seraphs touch their strings.
Saints, angels, choirs are massed.
The Word seeds the heav'n in rings.

In a blessed stable a picture is seen.
Parents, Jesus there.
An ass looking on, an ox beaming
At the best hay of the year.

Hodie Christus natus est.
The holy child is born.
In his love man's hope does rest
On this eternal morn.

The wise men are no longer wise:
God in the crib has bewildered them.
They place their gifts around the sides.
Kneel and pray. Adore him.

Yet in this joy is sensed a shadow,
An intimation of loss.
A ghostly fear of a dark tomorrow
With thorns and a heavy cross.

But now the heav'ns spin fast around,
It's jubilation day.
Infinity's ears are whipped by sound,
Would this day so stay.

Hodie Christus natus est.
The holy child is born.
In his love man's hope does rest
On this eternal morn.

Robert Tear

[14] Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.
Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna
qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen ejus.
Et misericordia, ejus a progenies in progenies
timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
Deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes.
Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae:
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros:
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Luke 1, 46-55. Vulgate

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is His name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

[15] A great and mighty wonder

A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure.
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honour pure
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'

The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'

While thus they sing your monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'

Since all he comes to ransom.
By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Saviour and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'

Germanus (c. 634-734)
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

[16] Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum:
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Luke 2, 29-32. Vulgate

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer