

THE WEXFORD CAROL

Traditional, 16th Century or earlier

Traditional

1. Good peo-ple all, — this Christ-mas time, Con-sid-er well, and bear in mind,
 2. The night be-fore — that hap-py tide, The no-ble Vir-gin and her guide
 3. Let all your songs — and prais-es be, Un-to his Heav'n-ly — Ma-je-sty;

What our good God — for us has done, In send-ing his — be-lov-ed Son.
 Were long time seek-ing up and down To find a lodg-ing in the town.
 And ev-er-more, — amongst our mirth, Re-mem-ber Christ our Savi-our's birth.

With Ma-ry ho-ly, we should pray To God with love this Christmas day;
 But mark how all things came to pass: From ev-ry door re-pelled A-las!
 That night the Vir-gin Ma-ry mild, Was safe de-liv-er'd of a child;

In Beth-le-hem — up-on that morn, There was a blessed Mes-si-ah born.
 As long fore-told — their ref-uge all Was but a hum-ble ox's stall.
 Ac-cord-ing un-to Heav'n's de-cree, Man's sweet sal-va-tion for to be.

4. Near Beth-le - hem_ did shep-herds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
 5. With thank-ful heart_and joy - ful mind, The shepherds went the babe to find,
 6. See how the Lord_ of Heav'n and earth, Show'd him-self low - ly_ in His birth;

To whom God's an - gels did ap-pear, Which put the shep-herds in great fear.
 And as God's an - gels had fore-told, They did our Sav - ior Christ be-hold.
 A sweet ex - am - ple for man-kind, To learn to bear_ a hum-ble mind.

"Pre-pare and go," the an-gels said, "To Beth - le - hem. Be_ not a - fraid
 With-in a man-ger he was laid, And by His side the_ vir - gin maid
 If quires of An - gels did re-joice, Well may man - kind with heart and voice

For there you'll find_ this hap-py morn A princely babe sweet Je - sus born."
 At - tend - ing on_ the Lord of Life Who came to earth to end all strife.
 Sing prais - es to_ the God of Heav'n, That un - to us_ His Son has giv'n.

from free-scores.com, with additional verses from

Some Ancient Christmas Carols with the Tunes To Which They Were Formerly Sung in the West of England, 1822,
 via books.google.com