

Night of Wonder

Settle by the Christmas tree, your comfie chair, or around your home advent wreath, and let the story of this Night of Wonder unfold. Simply told, through the promise of the prophets to the appearance of angels, a voice gradually weaves together what we know so well, and what we hear anew as it speaks - Emmanuel - God with us. Interwoven with scripture texts is the voice of music, creating energy that brings the story to life as the two come together. Its strains flow through what we know and long to hear this night, what our voices long to release in company with the angels, and what we hold, with Mary, in our hearts. Relax, breathe deeply, and open your spirit to receive.

Carols, as they join the narrative: (Note: only verse one is sung except where indicated. Enjoy singing from memory. Hymnal numbers included for part singing where indicated. Enjoy singing parts you hear anytime.)

O Come, o come Emmanuel

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - HWB#211

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel (Zechariah's Song) - HWB#179

Joy to the World - st.1, st. 2 - No more let sins....; st 3. He rules the world....

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Angels we have heard on high - Verses 1&2

There were angels all around - African American Spiritual

The First Noel - Verses 1&2

Lully, Lulay (Coventry Carol)- included on adjoining page

Silent Night - st. 1, st. 2 - Shepherds quake; st.3 -Son of God

22 COVENTRY CAROL (CHRISTMAS: INNOCENTS)

SECOND VERSION

Modern version of tune
(M.S.)

Pageant of the Shearmen
and Tailors, 15th-century

REFRAIN *Not too slow*

SOPRANO
ALTO

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul -

TENOR
BASS

Fine

-ly lul - - lay. 1. O sis - ters too, How may we do
2. He - rod, the king, In his rag - ing,
3. That woe is me, Poor child for thee!

For to pre - serve this day This poor young - ling, — For
Char - ged he hath this day His men of might, — In
And e - ver morn and day, For thy part - ing Nei - ther

After 3rd verse, sing Refrain again

whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - - lay?
his own sight, All young chil - dren to slay.
say nor sing By by, lul - ly lul - - lay!

D.S.

The text is that of Robert Crou, 1534, reprinted by E. Rhys, *Everyman and other Plays*. The Coventry plays were witnessed by Margaret, Queen of Henry VI, in 1456, by Richard III in 1484, by Henry VII in 1492, and we hear of the Smiths' play being performed in 1584, which brings us near to the date where the tune appears.

See the note on p. 44.

