

A Christmas Gift From Colin

Songs for Advent and Christmas time – permission is given for these to be used in worship as long as they are registered with CCL as having been used

Sine nomine (For all the saints) Text in Sharing Jesus and Spirit in the Melody (to a new tune)

How calm the night, the shepherd's had no fear,
The sky was clear, the fire gave warmth and cheer,
The stars were bright but one outshone them all.

Sing of a Saviour, holy lamb of heaven.

Then suddenly the night was filled with song
And on the hillside stood an angel throng.
Their melody of joy and praise to God

Sang of a Saviour, holy lamb of heaven.

Now leave your sheep and go into the town
Where you shall find a baby lying down,
His manger bed within a cattle stall,
This is your Saviour, holy lamb of heaven.

The prince of peace, child of a God-touched birth,
Born to make new, and give each life true worth,
A holy king wrapped in a strip of cloth,
Here is your Saviour, holy lamb of heaven.

Give God the praise for in this little child
All humankind is to be reconciled,
So here with shepherds, angels and the world

Praise, praise your Saviour, holy lamb of heaven.

Colin Ferguson

Text from Promise and can be sung to Woodlands (Tell out my soul)

Soon, very soon, our Saviour will be born,
shown through the words of prophets,
priests and kings;
here is God's promise to the world made flesh.

Soon comes the day that makes the angels sing.

Soon, very soon, the wilderness makes way,
a voice proclaims the coming of the Lord.
The desert blooms will burst into full flower
and God will show the glory of his word.

Soon, very soon, a baby will be born
and his young maiden mother will rejoice,
her song of joy and blessing shall ring out.
and choirs of angels to the world give voice.

Soon, very soon, a star will brightly shine,
and travellers from far away will see
and journey to a lowly stable yard
to find the reason for the mystery.

Soon, very soon, the church bells will be rung
as heaven descends to earth on Christmas day,
in Bethlehem there comes a baby's cry
that echoes through the years and here today.

Soon, very soon, the hungry Spirit feeds,
the outcast comes to God because the child
will give his life for every one of us;
by cross shall man and God be reconciled.

Colin Ferguson

A Christmas Gift From Colin

Text found in Spirit in the Melody (with music)

Somewhere on this Christmas night
a child is born in a barren place,
his mother has travelled so far from her
home,
and tears streak the mud on her face.
*But there is no star to light up the sky,
and there are no angel choirs,
there are no shepherds to bring him a
lamb and only a fool would go there.*

Somewhere in the world tonight
she wonders how she can feed her child,
for hunger has dried up the milk in her
breast
and her eyes cannot see him smile.
*For there is no star to light up the sky,
and there are no angel choirs,
there are no shepherds to bring him a
lamb, and only a fool would go there.*

Somewhere in the world tonight
A child will cry out in her empty pain,
a mother will die with the child in her
arms,
and the innocent perish again.
*And where is the star to light up the sky,
and where is the angel choir?
Where are the shepherds for this little
lamb, and where are the fools to go there.*

Somewhere a small child needs life
and thousands long for justice and peace
a mother will pray to find some hope
that will make their suffering cease.
*For we have the stars to light up the sky
and we have the angel choirs.
We are the shepherds to care for this flock
and we are the love that must go there.*

Colin Ferguson

Text in Promise and in Spirit in the melody (with a new tune) It can be sung to many long metre tunes.

Let everybody sing with cheer
as we begin another year,
the promises of Christmas day
are with us now and here to stay.

By God's own grace the Holy Word
in flesh is born as Christ the Lord.
Not in great might or palace home
but as a homeless baby come.

His mother still a child herself,
and father with no worldly wealth,
their neighbours are a rowdy inn,
in stable cave Christ's life begins.

Unholy shepherds came to praise
the child of unexpected ways,
and foreigners from distant lands
were star led over desert sands.

There is no place Christ cannot be,
no human pain or misery,
for those who need another start
his love can lighten every heart.

So let your resolutions stay
and don't let your intentions stray,
make Christ your home, his love the light,
live by his grace and do what's right.

Colin Ferguson