

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), 1849

music: Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900), 1850

Verse 1:

G C G C A D
It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
G C G C D G
From an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
B Emi A D
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav-en's all gracious King."
G C G C D G
The world in sol-emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.

Verse 2:

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats over all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
And ever, o'er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

Verse 3:

But with the woes of sin and strife the world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

Verse 4:

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

Verse 5:

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.