

The Angel Gabriel

Come _ all ye true _ good _ Christians _ that dwell up - on _ the earth

Come _ celebrate _ the _ morning _ of our dear Saviour's _ birth.

It _ is the ha - ppy morn - - ing, it _ is the ha _ ppy _ morn

To _ save poor souls _ from _ ruin _ the _ Son of God _ was born.

2. And then the Angel Gabriel, in Scripture as 'twas told
Came as a heavenly messenger unto a virgin maid
"Hail! Blest among all women" should kindly greet her then
"For thou shalt be the mother of the Saviour of all men"
3. O then replied the virgin "These things I know not well
For there was never such a wonder, no, not in Israel
That I should be the mother - how could it be, or can?
For to conceive our Saviour, who never knew a man?"
4. O then replied the angel "These things shall surely be
For the power of the Almighty shall overshadow thee
Rejoice at these glad tidings which cometh from the Lord"
"Be it to thy handmaiden according to thy word"
5. So at the time appointed they came to Bethlehem
And there was safely deliver-ed of the Saviour of all men
No princely pomp attended him, his honour was but small
His cradle was a manger, his bed an oxen stall.
6. At twelve years old they found him all in the temple sat
Among the learn-ed doctors the most pronounced for wit
Hearing and asking questions in which they wondered all
Because they knew for certain his learning was but small.
7. Then he did many wonders likewise from time to time
He turned the purest of water into the best of wine
He cured the bloody issue, he made the lame to walk
The blind their sight receiv-ed, likewise the dumb to talk.

8. Then he did many wonders likewise from day to day
Until the traitor Judas did our bless-ed Lord betray
Into the hands of sinners, the violent wretched Jews
And then by many torments, they vilely him abused.
9. They led him before Pilate, who governor was then
And there they did accuse him of the vilest of all men
And after they had accus-ed him they did him crucify
And then by many torments our bless-ed Lord did die.
10. While on the cross a-suffering to his Father he did call
"They know not what they are doing so I pray forgive them all"
And at the space of hours three was darkness o'er the earth
While all the whole creation did tremble at his death
11. The rocks were rent asunder the temple rent in twain
Likewise the graves did open when the Lord of life was slain
All things were struck with horror at the great sight and sound
Then said the bold centurion "This was the Son of God"
12. That when our lives are ended we all may hear him call
"Come, souls, receive the kingdom prepar-ed for you all"

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Source: Emily Bishop, Bromsberrow Heath, 1952, collected by Peter Kennedy

Notes: The singer could not remember the beginning of the twelfth verse.
The couplet given is the second half of the verse.