

5.1.78

7.1.80

Sing We Now of Christmas [FADE + STOP after v. 1]

(Joy to World 2⁵)

I hope it doesn't sound too odd to you to be inviting you to 'sing now of Christmas'. But after all, ^{we've only just} ~~we haven't even yet~~ got to the traditional 12th day of Christmas that the song of true love's gifts tells about: ^{yesterday} that's tomorrow, Jan 6th, Epiphany; and in some countries (it's) a much bigger festival day than our 25th December. But already, the schools have re-opened, shops & offices are back to normal (more or less) and another Christmastime has gone by, for all practical purposes. 12 days seems to be far too long for our hurried world of hard business, hard work and hard entertaining and wining and dining to take to savour the joy of Christmas, the message of peace for the world, or the gifts of our true love. But at least in the rhythm of the Church's prayer and celebration (a more leisurely and perhaps more humane one than modern business and society allows), we can in our prayer stay with the mystery of Christ's birth, and still sing about the wonder of Bethlehem whose nearby would need more than just 12 days to contemplate.

A child, wise men, a star? Gold, frankincense, myrror? There's more to the 12th day of Christmas than (maybe) we allow ourselves leisure and time to appreciate — let's at least listen now, while others sing of it in one of the not-too-many carols that have the Wise Men as well as the shepherds & angels

MUSIC up (v2 ff.)

PAAT 2¹⁻¹² (NYC p 42) → MP 379