

Good people all, this Christmastime

(The Enniscorthy Christmas Carol)

K 55

Kerst-
koor
2001

Irish traditional
Arr. Hugh Keyte / Andrew Parrot /
Jildou Talman

1. Good peo - ple all, this Christ - mas - time, Con - si - der well and

bear in mind What our good God for us has done In

sen - ding his be - lo - ved Son. With Ma - ry ho - ly

we should pray To God, with love, this Christ - mas Day: In

Good People All

Page 2 / 2

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Beth-le - hem up - on that morn - There was a blessed Mes - si - ah born.

1. Good people all, this Christmastime,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God, with love, this Christmas Day:
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born.

2. The night before the happy tide
The noble Virgin and her guide
Were-a long time seeking up and down
To find a lodging in the town.
But hark how all things come to pass:
From every door repelled, alas!
As long foretold, their refuge all
Was but a humble ox's stall.

3. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go", the angels said,
"To Bethlehem; be not afraid,
For there you'll find, this happy morn,
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born."

4. With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the Babe to find
And, as God's angels had foretold,
They did our Saviour, Christ, behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
And by his side the Virgin Maid
Attending on the Lord of Life,
Who came on earth to end all strife.

5. There were three wise men from afar,
Directed by a glorious star,
Came boldly on and made no stay
Until they came where Jesus lay.
And when they came unto that place,
And looked with love on Jesus' face,
In faith they humbly knelt to greet,
With gifts of gold and incense sweet.

6. Come, let us then our tribute pay
To our good God, as well we may,
For all his grace and mercy shown
Through-his Son to us, till then unknown;
And when through life we wend our way
'Mid trials and sufferings, day by day,
In faith and hope, whate'er befall,
We'll wait in peace his holy call.

The text is as sung in 1912 by a Fr. Patrick Cummins; he had learned the words and tune from his mother, who in turn had been taught them by hers. It is taken from a modern broadside published by the County Wexford Museum.