

Christmas Carols: Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Psalm 23:6 ❖ John 14:1-7

“Because of our rebellion against God, Jesus stepped into time in a stable in Bethlehem. He came to save us when we were powerless to save ourselves.”
 (“Big Trouble Ahead,” Allen Jackson, p. 34)

Rejoicing in the Midst of Grief

“For many of us, one Christmas stands out from all the others, the one when the _____ of the day shone _____.” (“My Christmas Miracle,” Taylor Caldwell, p. 39)

For me, it was the _____ Christmas without my mother - December 25, 2013. Mom had died _____ on December 13, and her funeral had been four days later. The stark _____ of her death was fresh and raw. She wasn't _____ us at the Christmas Eve service. She wasn't _____ us when we ate supper after the service. She wasn't _____ us when we looked in our stockings. She wasn't _____ us when we opened our presents from her. She wasn't _____ us to open our presents to her. Christmas 2013 was the first of nine so far that my Mom has been gone from _____ life.

However, I was able to _____ in the midst of my grief, because of the _____ God gave my mother and me. I believed and still believe that Jesus was _____ so we could be _____ again - both in _____ life and in the life to _____. Knowing my Mom was in _____ kept the sadness from overwhelming the joy in my heart.

There is a carol for all who _____ in the midst of their _____ at Christmas.

The Carol

Both the words and the tune to “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” go back to the _____ century. It was a Latin _____ song that was sung all over Europe. “In Dulci Jubilo” means “With Sweet _____.” Bach wrote an arrangement for the _____. In _____, Pennsylvania in 1745, a group of Moravian missionaries sang this carol in thirteen _____ and American _____ languages. (“One Year Book of Hymns,” Peterson, p. 356)

In 1853, an Anglican minister translated the words into _____. John Mason Neale had also translated the _____ version of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” into _____.

He had a passion for returning church architecture and _____ to their ancient grandeur. But many British Protestants, including Queen _____, did not share his passion. Some threatened to _____ him and _____ his house. In 1854, Rev. Neale co-founded an _____ of women in the Church of _____ dedicated to _____ the sick. *Have you watched “Call the _____”?* In 1857, at the funeral of one of the Sisters, he was attacked and _____ up. (“Then Sings My Soul,” Robert Morgan, p. 127)

V. 1. “_____ Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye _____ to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ
is _____ today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the _____ now:
Christ is _____ today! Christ is _____ today!”

Jesus’ _____ leads us to worship Him with every part of our _____!

V. 2. “Good _____ men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of _____ bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ
was born for _____!
He has opened heaven’s _____, and man is blessed
_____:
Christ was born for _____! Christ was born for _____!”

“I will _____ in the _____ of the LORD _____” (Psalm 23:6b).

V. 3. “Good Christian men, _____ With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not _____ the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus
Christ was born to _____!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain His everlasting _____
Christ was born to _____! Christ was born to _____!”

Jesus said, “In my Father’s _____ are many _____ ... I am going there to prepare a _____ for you ... I am the _____” (John 14:2, 6a).

Takeaway

John Mason Neale’s opinions on church life and music were widely _____ in his day, but we are still singing his _____.

As Christians with _____ memories of those we have loved and _____ just for a time, our _____ roll down on our _____. Right?!

