

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Lyrics

1.

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow has fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

2.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

3.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

4.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

5.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

In The Bleak MidWinter

CHRISTMAS

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1872, alt.

Music and Setting: 'Cranham' Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906, alt.

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$\text{♩} = 100$

1. In the bleak mid - - win - - ter, frost - - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, Heav'n can - not hold Him, nor _____ earth sus - - tain;
 3. E - - nough for Him, whom cher - u - bim, wor - - ship night and day,
 4. An - gels and arch - - an - - gels may have ga - thered there,
 5. What _____ can I give Him, poor _____ as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - - - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when He comes to reign.
 Breast - - ful of milk, and a man - ger - ful of hay; En -
 Cher - u - bim and ser - - a - phim thronged _____ the air;
 If I were a shep - - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - - win - - - ter, a sta - ble place suf - - ficed
 ough for Him, whom an - - - gels fall _____ down be - - fore,
 But His mo - ther on - - - ly, in her mai - den bliss,
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - - win - - ter, long a - - go.
 The Lord God Al - - migh - - ty, Je - - - - sus Christ.
 Ox and ass and ca - - mel which a - - dore.
 Wor - shipped the be - - lov - - ed with a kiss.
 Yet what can I give Him: give my heart.

These lyrics are rather obscure, though quite beautiful. The earth (which represents all of God's promises to His People, Gen 13:14-15, Rom 4:13-17, Mt 5:5) and the water (which represents Baptism and forgiveness, Jn 3:5, Eph 5:25-27, 1Pt 3:21) are frozen and lifeless as the Law reigns alone (2Cor 3:6b), with no grace flowing before Christ. The Spirit (the wind) works in the world through the condemnation of the Law and the hope for redemption to come (frosty wind made moan, Micah 4:10, Ez 21:6-7). Then Christ humbly comes to melt the icy world in grace. This then inspires those saved, who recognize that they have nothing to give to Him, to finally, through His grace, fulfill the greatest commandment (Mt 22:37).