

Foreword

The inspiration for this cantata was Christina Rossetti's poem, *Love Came Down at Christmas*. What a perfect phrase to describe the very essence of Christmas! First published in 1885, this remarkable lyric has survived the ages without being attached to a specific tune. In addition to composing a new tune for Rossetti's lyrics, I scattered lines of this classic poem throughout the work. Much of the material in this cantata is original, though you will find many familiar carols and Christmas favorites woven into its fabric as well.

There are four main sections corresponding to the four prominent themes of Advent. Each of these four anthems about *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* can be used individually throughout the season of Advent, if desired, or the cantata can also be done in its entirety in a single presentation. The complete work frames these four pieces with an opening and closing number, and ties them together with underscored narration to create a dramatic 30-minute Christmas excursion.

It is my sincere desire that hope, peace, joy, and love flood your Christmas season this and every year.

—Joel Raney

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Love Came Down (Opener)

Written and Arranged by
Joel Raney

Freely ♩ = 88-92

① *Silent Night! Holy Night!

Narrator: Love is patient, love is kind. Love always protects,
always trusts.

Love always hopes, always perseveres.

Love bears all things, believes all things.

Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 100

Love endures all things. Love never ends. Love never fails.

With quiet intensity ♩ = ca. 116

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

*Tune: STILLE NACHT by Franz Gruber, 1818

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22 SA *p*

Love came down at Christ - mas, Love came down,

B *p*

Love came down, Love__ came

25 *cresc. poco a poco*

Love__ came down, Love__ came down, Love__ came down!

cresc. poco a poco

down, Love__ came down, Love__ came down, Love__ came

cresc. poco a poco

28 **3** *mf* *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love came down at Christ - mas, Love__ came down!

mf

down! Love di - vine, all

mf

*Words by Charles Wesley, 1747; Tune: MENDELSSOHN by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

31

Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling!

loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth_ come down!

*Angels We Have Heard on High

34

Glo -

Love came_ down, Love came_ down!

37

ri - a! Love came down! On

Love came down at Christ-mas, Love came down!

*Tune: GLORIA, Traditional French Melody, 18th c.

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

41

Christ - mas night all Chris - tians_ sing to hear the news that the

44

an - gels bring. All out of dark - ness we have_ light, for

47

Love came down on that Christ - mas night. News of great

*Words: Traditional English Carol; Tune: SUSSEX CAROL, Traditional English Carol

50

hope and news of great mirth, joy - ful

p

Love and peace on earth,

53

news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.

mf

5

56

Glo -

f

Love came down, Love came

59

ri - a! He is born, the di -
down, Love came_ down. O come, all ye

62

vine Christ Child, play the o - boe and bag - pipe mer - ri - ly.
faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O

65

O come, O come_ ye to Beth - le -
come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le -

*Words: Traditional French Carol, 19th c.; Tune: IL EST NÉ, Traditional French Melody, 18th c.

Words: Latin Hymn, attr. **John F. Wade, 1751, tr. **Frederick Oakeley**, 1841; Tune: ADESTE FIDELES,
John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

Come, Emmanuel, Come (*Hope*)

Written and Arranged by
Joel Raney

Freely ♩ = ca. 88

9 *On This Day Earth Shall Ring Narrator: Long before the birth of Christ, prophets

p

told of a coming Messiah: One who would bring the world out of darkness and into light. And the world waited with hope...

5 **Gently** ♩ = ca. 96

rit.

8 **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

...hope for a time when people would be free from oppression; and for a time when fighting

11 and war would give way to understanding and peace;

poco rit. *accel. poco a poco*

14 hope for the end of poverty, hunger, and pain;

* Tune: PERSONENT HODIE, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

** Tune: ES IST EIN ROS', *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1599

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18 and hope for the arms of God to wrap the world in everlasting love. 15

rit.

22 **10** **Mysteriously** ♩ = ca. 144

22 **10** **Mysteriously** ♩ = ca. 144

mp

26 SA

mp

26 SA *mp*

A *mp*

30

glim - mer of hope shines in the dark - ness,

30

glim - mer of hope shines in the dark - ness,

mp

34

when will the dawn - ing come? _____ A

38

whis - per of peace ech - o - ing si - lent - ly,

42

when will we hear the song? _____

cresc.

cresc.

46 *mf*

Hope of the earth, Prom - ise of ag - es,

mf

50

Light for the world to see.

54 *mp*

Spir - it of wis - dom, pow - er, and love,

mp

58 *cresc.* 12

come, set the cap - tive free!

cresc.

62 *f*

Come, Em - man - u - el, come, Em -

f

65

man - u - el, come, Em - man - u - el,

68 13 *mp*

come.

mp

O

72 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

come, O come, Em - man - u -

76 *mp*

Come, Em - man - u - el, come, Em - man - u - el,

mp

el, come and

*Words: Latin, 9th c., tr. John M. Neale; Music: Thomas Helmore, 1854, based on plainsong

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra -

mp

mel.

come, Em - man - u - el, come. that
el,

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

92

here un - til the Son of

96 14 *cresc.*

God ap - pear. Re -

cresc. *f*

100

joice! Re - joice! Em -

mf

104

man - u - el

shall

108

shall come to thee, O

come to thee, O Is

112

cresc. Is - ra - el, *f* Em - man - u - el,

cresc. Is - ra - el, *f* come, Em - man - u - el,

- ra - el, come, Em - man - u - el,

Grant Us Peace (*Peace*)

Written and Arranged by
Joel Raney

18 Quietly ♩ = ca. 96

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Narrator: The world waited with hope, watching expectantly

**Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming
for the peace promised by God in the scriptures: "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills

be removed, yet my unshaken love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace
be removed," says the Lord.

* Tune: HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

** Tune: ES IST EIN ROS', *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1599

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That peace was brought to earth in the form of a Child, born in a stable in Bethlehem. "For unto us

17 **(19) Tenderly** ♩ = ca. 100

a Child is born, a Son is given. And He will be called the Prince of Peace."

21

Children's Choir (opt. select Unis. Voices or Solo)

25 *p*

Do - na no - bis,

29

do - na no - bis pa - cem.

33

Born a child to grant us peace.

37

rit. *a tempo*

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

l.h.
a tempo

41

20 end Children's Choir (or Unis. Voices/Solo) SA *mp* *Away in a Manger

A - way in a

B p mp

Grant us peace, Lord.

mp

* Words: Anonymous; Tune: CRADLE SONG by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

45

man - ger, no crib for a bed,

l.h. *d.* *l.h.*

49

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid

d. *l.h.* *d.*

53

down His sweet head; the stars in the

l.h. *d.*

Listen to the Joyful Song (*Joy*)

Written and Arranged by
Joel Raney

Quietly ♩ = ca. 92

(25) *He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child

Narrator: The night Christ was born an

mp

rit.

With urgency ♩ = ca. 108

**Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

angel appeared to the shepherds saying, "Fear not! For I bring you good tidings of great joy!"

And the heavens were filled with angels celebrating and singing,

p

9 "Glory to God in the highest!" And we continue that celebration as the scripture commands:

rit.

mp a tempo

12 "Great is the Holy One of Israel among you. Shout aloud and sing for joy!"

rit.

* Tune: IL EST NÉ, Traditional French Melody

** Tune: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel

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42 26 Light, lively $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 76$

16 *mf*

20

24 SA *mp*
Lis - ten to the sound of the an - gels' sing - ing, hear the joy - ful mu - sic
B *mp*

mp

27
fill the sky. Join _____ with the heav - en - ly cho - rus,

30 *mf* *mp*

“Glo - ry be to God— on high.” Lis - ten to the news of the

mf *mp*

33

won-drous sto - ry, ech - o through the heav - ens clear—and—strong.

36 *mf* (27) *cresc.*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Lis - ten to the an - gels

mf *cresc.*

mf *cresc.*

39 *f*

sing - ing a Christ - mas song.

f

42 *mf*

See the shep - herds kneel - ing at the man - ger

mf

mf

45

wor - ship - ing the new - born

48

f

King. Hear the bells of

f

51

heav - en ring - ing.

54

(28)

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing - ing.

58 *mf*

Lis-ten to the news of the won-drous sto - ry ech - o through the heav - ens

mf

mf

61 *f*

clear_ and_ strong. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

f

f

64

Lis-ten to the an - gels sing - ing a Christ - mas song.

67

(29)

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

70

mf

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo-ry to the new - born King.

74

mf

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!’’

*Words by Charles Wesley; Tune: MENDELSSOHN by Felix Mendelssohn

Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine (*Love*)

57

Written and Arranged by
Joel Raney

33 **Tenderly** ♩ = ca. 66
*The First Noel

Narrator: The very first Christmas present came from God

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Tenderly' with a quarter note equal to approximately 66 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'p' (piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

on that starlit night. It came wrapped, not in shiny paper, but in simple swaddling cloths,
and was given for all to receive. And that gift had a name:

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The piece continues in 3/4 time. Measure 8 ends with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature change. The dynamics are marked 'p' (piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present in measure 8.

34 **Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel: God's gift of love.**

9 **Peacefully** ♩ = ca. 72

Musical notation for measures 9-10. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The tempo is marked 'Peacefully' with a quarter note equal to approximately 72 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

Musical notation for measures 11-12. The piece continues in 4/4 time. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand.

*Tune: THE FIRST NOEL, W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

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*Love Came Down at Christmas

13

SA *mp*

Love came down at Christ - mas,

15

Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;

17

Love was born at Christ - mas,

19

stars and an - gels gave the sign.

poco rit.

*Words by Christina Rossetti, alt., 1883; Music by Joel Raney

21 SA *mf* *a tempo*

Love shall be our to - ken,

B *mf*

mf *a tempo*

23

Love be yours, and Love be mine.

25

Love came down at Christ - mas,

f

f

mp 35 *rit.*

Love in - car - nate, Love di -

mp

mp *rit.*

Gently ♩ = ca. 52

vine.

p

Gently ♩ = ca. 52

Love came down,

p

mp *Gesu Bambino

When blos - soms flow - ered 'mid the snows, up -

Love came down, Love came down, Love came down,

*Words by Frederick H. Martens; Music by by Pietro A. Yon

35

p

on a win - ter night, Love came down,
Love came down, Love came down. was born the Child, the

38

36

mf

Love came down, Love came down, Love came down. The
Christ - mas Rose, the King of love and light.

41

the grate - ful earth re -

an - gels sang, the shep - herds sang, the grate - ful earth re -

44 voiced;

voiced, the grate - ful earth re-joyced; and at — His bless - ed

47

birth the stars their ex - al - ta - tion

49 (37) voiced. *f* rit. *a tempo mp*

voiced, their ex - al - ta - tion voiced. O

Love Divine (*Finale and Reprise*)

Written and Arranged by
Joel Raney

40 Quietly ♩ = ca. 92

SA

B

*The First Noel

p

Oo—

Quietly ♩ = ca. 92

p

Narrator: Love wasn't the only thing that came down at Christmas. Hope came down, too, because a

5

Oo—

*Words: Traditional English Carol; Tune: THE FIRST NOEL from **W. Sandys'** *Christmas Carols*, 1833

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Savior was given. And joy came down in celebration of God's gift of grace.

9

Oo

And through the incarnation of God's love, in the form of a tiny Baby, peace came down.

13

Oo

(41) Peace on earth and good will for all.

17

No

21 *mf*

el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

mf

mf

25 *cresc. poco a poco* *poco rit.*

born is the King of Is - ra -

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco *poco rit.*

42 Spirited ♩ = ca. 120

29 *ff* *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

el.

ff *f*

Spirited ♩ = ca. 120 Love di - vine, all

ff *f*

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; Tune: REGENT SQUARE by Henry T. Smart, 1867

32

loves ex-cel - ling, _____ Joy of heaven to

35

f

earth come down, _____ fix in us Thy

38

hum - ble dwell - ing, _____ all Thy faith - ful _____

41 43

mer - cies crown.

44 *mp*

mp

Je - sus, Thou art all com-pas - sion,

47 *mf*

mf

pure, un - bound - ed love. Thou