

Christ Is Born to Us This Day

Delores Dufner, OSB

Christine Manderfeld, OSB

REFRAIN *With joyful, refreshing conviction*

mf

Soprano I
Soprano II

Christ — is born to us this day! Re - joice, —

Alto I
Alto II

mf

Fine

sing al - le - lu - ia! De - o — gra - ti - as!

VERSES

mp

1. Come, see the riv - ers clap — their hands. Look at the moun - tains
2. Sim - ple folk kneel be - fore — a Child. Great ones bow down — to
3. Now is be - gun sal - va - tion's day; now must dark night — give

mp

D.C.

1. leap - ing for joy! God has ap - peared, — sing glo - ri - a! —
2. wor - ship a King. God is with us, — sing glo - ri - a! —
3. way to the sun. Je - sus is Light, — sing glo - ri - a! —

© 1989, Sisters of St. Benedict. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

Textwriter Notes

The original "Huron Carol" was written in the Huron language in the early 1600s by Saint Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary. Bruce Cockburn (b. 1945), a Canadian singer and songwriter, describes the English text most often used for the Huron Carol, "Twas in the moon of wintertime," as "incredibly Victorian-esque" and "a sentimentalized affair which borders on being patronizing." In this Anglicized text, God is called "Gitchi Manitou," a name which doesn't appear in Brébeuf's original Huron-language text.

The translation on which I based my text was done by Dr. John L. Steckley, a linguist at the University of Sudbury in Ontario who speaks the Huron language. Dr. Steckley's literal translation speaks about the birth of Christ as a liberation from evil. It describes the biblical magi as "men of great influence" who anointed Jesus' scalp with sunflower seed oil many times as a sign of their respect.

Both Sister Christine and I wanted to be sure that humanity's adoption by God, a key idea in Brébeuf's last stanza, be included in my text. Dr. Steckley's literal translation of this final stanza is: "We will give to him praise for his name. Let us show reverence for him as he comes to be compassionate to us. It is providential that you love us and wish, 'I should adopt them.'"

—Delores Dufner, OSB

Huron Carol

St. Jean de Brébeuf
Translated by John Steckley
Adapted by Delores Dufner, OSB

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, 86 86 88 with refrain
Arranged by Christine Manderfeld, OSB

INTRO

Flute

Percussion
Shaker
Hand Drum

Soprano

Alto

Organ

1. Take
(3. Three)

Text © 1996, 2011, John Steckley (used by permission of HSW Literary Agency) and Sisters of St. Benedict. All rights reserved.
Music arr. © 2011, Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

♩ VERSES 1, 3

(Percussion tacet Verse 3)

SI
SII

1. cour-age, ev-ery hu-man heart, for Je-sus Christ is born. Be-hold, the e-vil
3. eld-ers see a won-drous star that leads them on the way. And when it stops, they

A

SI
SII

1. spir-it who en-slaved us now is gone. The lies it speaks cor-rupt the mind, so
3. find the Child on hum-ble bed of hay. They greet him then and, bow-ing low, with

SI
SII

1. leave its words and ways be-hind.— } Je-sous aha-ton-hia.— Je-sus is
3. joy-ful praise their rev-'rence show.— } (ē-soos ah-tōn-ya)

to Coda ⊕

SI
SII

1,3. born.— Je-sous aha-ton-hia.

VERSE 2: Unison

2. Good spir - its from the sky ap - pear and bring good news to earth. They

Organ (8' flutes)

2. come an - nounc - ing Ma - ry's Child, for she has giv - en birth. "Re - joice, re - joice!" their

2. song re - sounds; their mes - sage all the world as - tounds: — Je - sous aha -

2. ton - hia, Je - sus is born. Je - sous aha - ton - hia. 3. Three

D.S. al Coda

⊕ CODA

INTERLUDE

Flute

Percussion

SI

SII

3. *hia.*

A

Organ

VERSE 4

S/A

4. For love's com - pas - sion

Organ (4', 8' flutes)

4. of - fered us, glad voic - es let us raise. A - dopt - ed as God's

4. chil - dren, we give thanks and rev - 'rent praise. "Re - joice, re - joice!" our

4. song re - sounds; our mes - sage all the world as - tounds: — Je - sous aha -

4. ton - hia, Je - sus is born. Je - sous aha - ton - hia.

Fl.

Perc.

The musical score is arranged in a multi-staff format. It begins with a vocal line in the upper staff, followed by a piano accompaniment consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). Below the piano part are staves for Flute (Fl.) and Percussion (Perc.). The score includes a large 'Preview' watermark across the center. The lyrics '4. ton - hia, Je - sus is born. Je - sous aha - ton - hia.' are written under the vocal line. The percussion part features a steady rhythmic pattern of quarter notes.

Rejoice in Jesus' Birth

Delores Dufner, OSB

Traditional English Melody
Arranged by Christine Manderfeld, OSB

INTRO

Organ *p*

VERSE 1: Unison

p

1. A peo - ple long in dark - ness have seen a won - drous light. The —

1. ba - by born of Ma - ry has brought an end to night. The —

1. ba - by born of Ma - ry has brought an end to night. —

VERSE 2

Soprano *mp*

Alto

2. An - nounce God's pres - ence with us; re - joice in Je - sus' birth. All —

Organ *p*

Text and music arrangement © 2013, Sisters of St. Benedict.
Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

2. crea - tures, sing your prais - es with ___ danc - ing on the earth! All ___

2. crea - tures, sing your prais - es with ___ danc - ing on the earth! ___

VERSE 3

SI mf

3. God's glo - ry shines in splen - dor; in ___ Je - sus grace ap - pears. O, ___

SII

A mf

3. com - fort all the suf - f'ring and ___ wipe ___ a - way their tears! O, ___

3. com - fort all the suf - f'ring and ³ wipe a - way their tears! ³

VERSE 4: Unison

mp
4. We bear now in our bod - ies, in ves - sels made of clay, a

p

4. spark of that same glo - ry re - vealed in Christ to - day, a

4. spark of that same glo - ry re ³ - vealed in Christ to - day.

VERSE 5

Descant *f*

5. So sing we al - le - lu - ia, sing out with joy. Sing —

Melody *f*

5. So sing we al - le - lu - ia for prom-ised fu - ture — bright, and —

5. al - le - lu - ia, sing out with — joy. Sing al - le - lu - ia,

5. walk no more in dark - ness, but — live in Christ the Light. And — walk no more in

5. live — in Love's — de - light.

5. dark - ness, but — live in Love's de - light.