A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

Music by
Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

Text by
Kate Bluett
A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Kate Bluett
Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876, alt.

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

INTRO  With grace and mystery (\(\# = \text{ca. 84}\))

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Keyboard

Em  Cmaj7  D  Bm7  Cmaj7  B7

Soprano

Em  B7  Em  Em/D  Cmaj7  G/B  Am  Em/B  B7

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A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

1. We search in vain for sight of them,
   From angels bending near the earth
   As hope begins to

1. high.
old,

Em B7 Em B7/D# G/D Em/C# F/C C/F F

1. A distant, pained as of war disturbs our sleepless
   “Peace on the earth, good will to all

B sus4 B C D Em Am Am/F#

1. night. We whisper in our hearts more, “Come, Lord, and bring us
   The world in solemn stillness lay,

B sus4 B B7 C D Em Em/D Am/C Em/B B7

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem
1. "Light"

2. The road we took to Bethlehem was difficult and long, from our first steps in Edom's glen, when we were whole and furled, And still their heavy steps mu...
A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

2. strong:

world:  

A - bove its sad and_ low - ly plains

A - bove and_ low - ly plains

They

B sus4  B  C  D  G  Cmaj7

2. We now with_ bro - ken steps and

A - bove and_ low - ly plains

They

Am  Fmaj7  Bsus4  B  C  D

2. stum - bling through_ the night

bend on hov - 'ring with

And ev - er o' er its

Am  Fmaj7  Bsus4  B  C  D

2. fam - ly sleeps worn out in - search of light.

Ba - bel sounds The ble - ed an - gels sing.

Em  Am  Em/B  B7  Em
VERSE 3  Slower, with some rubato

3. In sorrow through Bethlehem, we keep our watch and
And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending

3. Pray, But from the stable comes a gleam of
low, Who toil along the climbing way With

3. Pray, But from the stable
low, Who toil a long way.

3. Long-awaited day, A baby cries, and
painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and

3. Long-awaited day, A baby cries, and
painful steps and slow, Glad,
3. light shines out to challenge sorrow's night. And

gold-en hours Come swiftly on the wing: O

3. A light shines to challenge sorrow's night. And

Gold-en hours Come swiftly on the wing: O

3. from the skies we hear in praise of newborn

rest beside the weary road And hear the angels

3. from the skies, hear of the angels

a tempo

3. light. sing. a tempo

Em Cmaj7 D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem
4. We journey on from Bethlehem;
For, lo, the days are has't'ning on,
By proph - et bar ds fore-

Em B7 Em Em/D Cmaj7 G/B Am Em/B B7

4. We journey a - bove us shines a

Em B7 Em B7/D G/D Em/C#

4. star. told,
With - in hearts, be-

Em B7 Em B7/D G/D Em/C#

4. star. told,
With - in the an-sw'ring flame be-

Em B7 Em B7/D G/D Em/C#

4. gins to fight the dark, We see our road leads

F/C C/F F B sus4 B C D
4. on through gloom; we dare to walk its night for all the earth. Its ancient splendors fling. And

4. on through gloom; we walk its night for all the earth. Its splendors fling. And

G    Em    Am    Am/F#       B sus4    B    B7

4. at its end an empty tomb pours forth a flood of light. all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

4. at its end an empty tomb pours forth a flood of light. all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

C    D    Em    Freely Am    Em/B    B7    E

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It Came upon the Midnight Clear

(Guitar/Vocal)

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2. Bethlehem was difficult and long, from our first steps in skies they come. With peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly wings furled, long. And from our first steps in heaven's glories, O'er when we were whole and strong, we now approach with music floats over all the weary world: above its sad and stable where a family sleep worn out in search of light. Ever o'er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

VERSE 3 Slower, with some rubato (accompaniment tacet)

3. In sorrow throughout Bethlehem, we keep our watch and pray. But and ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who

toil along the climbing way. With painful steps and slow, Look

3. In sorrow throughout Bethlehem, we keep our watch and pray. But and ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who
3. from the skies we hear a shout in praise of new-born light.
rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing.

VERSE 4

4. We journey on from
For, lo, the days are

4. Bethlehem, above us shines a star. With
has 't'ning on, By prophetic bards foretold, When

4. in our hearts, an answer flame begins to fight the
with the ever-circling years Comes 'round the age of

4. dark, We see on, and leads on through gloom; we
gold, When peace shall a ever all the earth Its

4. dare to walk its night for at its end an
ancient splendors fling. And all the world give

4. empty tomb pours forth a flood of light.
back the song Which now the angels sing.
A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

INTRO  With grace and mystery (\(\textit{\#} = \text{ca. 84}\))

VERSE 1

VERSE 2

VERSE 3  Slower, with some rubato

VERSE 4

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A DARKNESS COVERS BETHLEHEM

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. A darkness covers Bethlehem; no
darkness we see on high; we search in vain for
sight of them, as hope begins to die. A

2. The road we took to Bethlehem was
stars we see on high; a search in vain for
distant thunder of war disappears
now approach with broken steps and

3. In sorrow through-out Bethlehem, we
come a gleam of longing awaited day. A
baby cries, and light shines out to
turbs our sleepless night. We whisper in our

4. We journey on from Bethlehem; a-
keep our watch and pray. But from the stable
see our road leads through gloom; we
challenge sorrowful light. And from the skies we
dare to walk the night for at its end an

A darkness covers Bethlehem; no
darkness we see on high; a search in vain for
sight of them, as hope begins to die. A

Stars we see on high; a search in vain for
distant thunder of war disappears

Now approach with broken steps and
baby cries, and light shines out to
turbs our sleepless night. We whisper in our

Challenger sorrowful light. And from the skies we
dare to walk the night for at its end an

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Assembly Edition

A DARKNESS COVERS BETHLEHEM

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. It came upon the midnight clear, That
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, With
3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose
4. For, lo, the day isdawning on, By

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. glo-rious song of old, From an- gels bend-ing
2. peace-ful wings un-furled, And still their heav'n-ly
3. forms are bend-ing low, Who toil a-long the
4. pro-phet bards fore-told, When with the ev-er-

1. near the earth There touch their harps of
2. mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry
3. climb-ing way With pain-ful steps and
4. cir-cling years Comes round the age of

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. gold: *Peace on the earth, good will to all* From
2. world: A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They
3. slow, Look now! for glad gold-en hours They
4. gold, When peace shall o'er all the earth Its

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. heav'n's all gra-cious Kin. The world in sol-emn
2. bend on hov-ering wing And ev-er o'er its
3. swift-ly on the wing, O rest be-side the
4. an-cient splen-dors And all the world give

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. still-ness lay, To hear the an-gels sing.
2. Ba-bel sounds The blest an-gels sing.
3. wea-ry road And hear the an-gels sing.
4. back the song Which the an-gels sing.

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