

“ON A STARRY HILLSIDE” (To the tune of “In the Bleak Midwinter” Public Domain)

Music: Gustav Holst 1906, Original lyrics: poem by Christina Rossetti 1872

Additional/Altered lyrics by Christene Jackman ©11.1.2021, 12.20.2024

To reflect a spring/Passover birth of Messiah.

In Israel, lambing season is in early spring. Shepherds are in the fields at night, protecting the ewes giving birth from predators drawn by the smell of blood. "In the Bleak Midwinter" is a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti, commonly performed as a Christmas carol. The poem was published, under the title "A Christmas Carol", in the January 1872. In 1906, the composer Gustav Holst composed a setting of Rossetti's words (titled "Cranham") in The English Hymnal which is sung throughout the world.

FOR PIANO

A F#m Bm E
On a starry hillside / far from where I am
A F#m Bm E A
Shepherds guarded mothers / ewes about to lamb
Bm F#m A Bm E
Danger lurked in shadows deep / but flickering fires deterred
A F#m Bm E A
While on a starry hillside / Angels brought them word

A F#m Bm E
Our God, heaven can't hold Him / nor the earth sustain
A F#m Bm E A
Heaven & earth shall hail Him / when He comes to reign
Bm F#m A Bm E
On that greening hillside / the Branch sprang forth that day
A F#m Bm E A
Yeshua HaMashiach / the King, in swaddling lay

A2 (add b) F#m4 (add b) Bm7 E
Angels and archangels / praising, gathered there
A2 (add b) F#m4 (add b) Bm7 E A
Keruvim and *Seraphim* / thronging in the air
Bm F#m A Bm E
And His mother, *Miriam* / in her maiden bliss
A2 (add b) F#m4 (add b) Bm7 E A
Worshipped the Beloved / sweetly with a kiss

A F#m Bm E
But, what can I give Him / poor as I am?
A F#m Bm E A
If I were a shepherd / I would bring a lamb
Bm F#m A Bm E
If I were a wise man / I would do my part
A2 (add b) F#m4 (add b) Bm7 E A
So, what I can, I give Him / I will give my heart

JUST LYRICS

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