

# 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).