

# “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Traditional English Carol / Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

## History

This happy little carol known as “Sussex Carol” was popularized by one of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century’s most famous composers, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). One of the things that made Vaughan Williams special was his use of old folk song material that he promoted in collections for churches, choirs and even his own compositions for orchestra. “Sussex Carol” was a song that Vaughan Williams and a colleague named Ceil Sharp first heard in West Sussex, England. While the writer of this carol is not known, its earliest appearance is in an Irish collection of sacred music printed in 1684 by a bishop named Luke Wadding.

This carol is intended to be sung alternating between unison and harmony (like a call-and-response). The first, second and fifth lines are to be unison (normal type) and the second, third and sixth lines are to be sung in harmony (italics). Another way to achieve a similar effect (particularly if you don’t have voices for harmony) is to alternate between one/two voices and the entire group of voices. Sing and give thanks to your Redeemer who has “rescued us from the dominion of darkness” and “qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” (Col. 1:12-13).

## Words

**1.** On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring;  
*On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring:*  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
*News of our merciful King’s birth.*

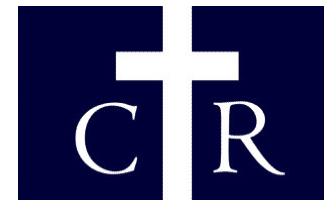
**2.** Then why should men on earth be sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad:  
*Then why should we on earth be sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad:*  
When from our sin He set us free,  
*All for to gain our liberty.*

**3.** When sin departs before Your grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
*When sin departs before Your grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;*  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
*All for to see the newborn King.*

**4.** All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night;  
*All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night:*  
“Glory to God and peace to men,  
*Now and forevermore. Amen.”*

# Taking Gathered Worship

## Home



CHRIST *the*  
REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Family and Individual Devotions

### Third Week of Advent

Meditations in Deuteronomy

Week of December 17, 2006

# A Witness Against Us

## The Redemption Candle

**Leader:** Why do we light the Advent candles?

*Family:* Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

**Leader:** What is the meaning of the third lighted candle?

*Family:* The third candle is the Redemption candle which represents God's redeeming His people from slavery.

**Leader:** How did God redeem the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt?

*Family:* God redeemed the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt through the Passover of the First-born and the victory over Egypt's army at the Red Sea.

**Leader:** What does the New Testament say concerning our redemption from sin?

*Family:* First Peter says, "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God." (1 Peter 1:17-21)

**Read aloud** the history of the Christmas carol, "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" and sing it together as a family.

**Closing prayer to be read in unison:** "Lord Jesus Christ, we give You all thanks and praise for Your victory over sin and death at the cross and the empty tomb. We bless You for redeeming us from the empty way of life we inherited from Adam and bringing us into a new life in Your family. We thank You for Your precious blood that was shed for us that we might be delivered from the dominion of darkness into Your glorious kingdom of light. We look forward with hope to Your return when we, with Your holy angels, will never cease to sing the wonders of Your glorious redemption. Amen."

*Please use the litany above each day this week followed by the exercises below. Pray that we as a community of faith will learn Christ's ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

**Sunday, 12/17** Read today's passage, **Deuteronomy 31:2-29** and consider what it means to break covenant with God.

**Recite** the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

**Pray** for our community of faith at CTR to trust God's promises. Ask Him to build in us a real sense of expectancy, that we might long more and more for Christ's return and seek to make Him known and loved by those around us.

**Monday, 12/18** Read the first stanza of Moses' song, **Deuteronomy 32:1-14**. Consider the depth of our faithlessness.

**Meditate** on God's grace in providing Christ despite our covenant failures.

**Pray** for wisdom that we might rightly apply God's truth in our daily lives.

**Tuesday, 12/19** Read **Deuteronomy 32:15-22**. How does this stanza not only speak of Israel's rebellion, but our own?

**Recite** the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

**Pray** for CTR to demonstrate the power of God as we trust Him to do what only He is able to do. Pray that His mighty power might be displayed to the city of Portland.

**Wednesday, 12/20** Read **Deuteronomy 32:23-33**. Why would God be so severe with His people? What are His purposes?

**Meditate** on God's faithfulness to do all that He has said He will do.

**Pray** for God to help us understand His promises and how to live our lives in light of them trusting in Him.

**Thursday, 12/21** Read **Deuteronomy 32:34-43**. What does it mean that vengeance belongs to the Lord? Why is it His alone?

**Recite** the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

**Pray** for CTR to be a community of faith that loves Christ our King and keeps His law. Ask the Lord to incline our hearts to love righteousness and our feet to walk in His paths. Ask Him to give us boldness in proclaiming His goodness and might in Portland, New England, and the world.

**Friday, 12/22** Come to the prayer meeting **this morning at 6:30**.

Read **Deuteronomy 32:1-47**. How is this song our life?

**Pray** for God's presence to be our only true comfort as a community of faith. Ask Him to know His nearness in daily life and trust in Him with everything.

**Saturday, 12/23** Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Deuteronomy 34:1-12** and discuss the Lord going with His people.

**Prepare** today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

**Pray** for your neighbors, co-workers, and family members who are still strangers to Christ that they will be overcome by His grace.

## The Shema

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*