



# Winter Solstice Carols

## **WE WISH YOU A MERRY SOLSTICE**

Words by Susan M. Shaw

We wish you a merry Solstice  
We wish you a merry Solstice  
We wish you a merry Solstice  
And a happy New Year!

CHORUS:

Good tidings we bring  
To you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Solstice!  
And a happy New Year!

Our feasting is not so simple  
Our feasting is not so simple  
Our feasting is not so simple  
On this holly day!

CHORUS

We've eggnog and punch and wassail  
We've eggnog and punch and wassail  
We've eggnog and punch and wassail  
And hot chocolate too.

CHORUS

We've breads, cakes and Solstice cookies  
We've breads, cakes and Solstice cookies  
We've breads, cakes and Solstice cookies  
Plus crackers and buns.

CHORUS

## OUR LADY GREENSLEEVES

Midwinter moon is shining bright  
The Yuletide log is burning.  
The people gather 'round tonight  
The Sabbath wheel is turning.  
Joy! Mirth! the Sun's rebirth!  
Now as of old we greet Thee.  
Gladdening is the song we sing  
Of praises to the Lady.

'Twas at the feast of bright Beltane  
When we all were a-Maying,  
Sweet minstrel Queen in Her gown of green  
Spring roundelay was playing.  
And though now roped in snow  
Her wintry garb deceives, for  
Bedipped with holly and mistletoe  
She is still our Lady Greensleeves.

So drink ye wassail everyone  
Good Pagans all made merry  
With wine as red as the reborn Sun,  
As red as holly-berry.  
Dancing, come join the ring,  
As Her Yuletide spell she weaves.  
Fair Queen, the evergreen,  
Sweet lovely Lady Greensleeves.



## SILENT NIGHT, SOLSTICE NIGHT

Greenwood Singers Words by Jayne Allison Bell

Silent night, Solstice Night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Nature slumbers in forest and glen  
Till in Springtime she awakens again  
Sleeping spirits grow strong  
Sleeping spirits grow strong.

Silent Night, Solstice Night  
Silver moon shining bright  
Snowfall blankets the slumbering Earth  
Yule fires welcome the Sun's rebirth  
Hark, the light is reborn  
Hark, the light is reborn.

Silent Night, Solstice Night  
Quiet rest till the light  
Turning ever the rolling wheel  
Brings the Winter to comfort and heal  
Rest your spirit in peace  
Rest your spirit in peace.

## TRIPLE SOLSTICE GODDESS

by Lunea Weatherstone

Tune: We Three Kings

Goddesses of Solstice are we,  
Bringers of the Star and the Tree  
Maiden, Mother, Crone uncover  
Winter's deep mystery

### CHORUS:

Oh, time of wisdom, time of sight  
Time of Winter's darkest night  
Goddess hold me, love enfold me  
Open me to your light.

Maiden of the darkness I sing  
Underworlds of wisdom I bring  
Seeking, learning, Kore returning  
Bearing the light of Spring.

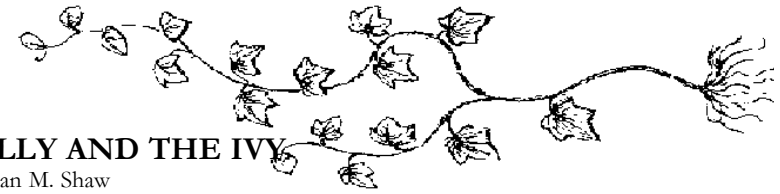
### CHORUS

Demeter, the slumbering Earth  
Dreaming of her daughter's rebirth  
Candles lighted, world united  
Knowing our own true worth.

### CHORUS

Crone of deepest wisdom I dwell  
Deep in time's mysterious well  
Dreaming, daring, teaching, sharing  
Hecate's secret spell.

### CHORUS



## THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

adapted by Susan M. Shaw

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown  
Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown  
The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry tunes as we Pagans sing with cheer

The holly bears a blossom, white as the lily flower  
The Goddess shares the Solstice Sun; days grow longer with its  
power  
The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
We celebrate with joyous hearts the Wheel of the Year

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood  
The Goddess brings the Solstice Sun to allow our hopes to bud  
The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
These blessed signs of life's renewal will banish any fear

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn  
The Goddess lights the Solstice Sun as we welcome the new  
morn  
The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
The Green Man and the Holly King are always welcome here

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall  
The Goddess gives the Solstice Sun for the wonder of us all  
The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
In perfect love and perfect trust, may our hearts be ever clear

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown  
Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown  
The rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry tunes as we Pagans sing with cheer



## GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Words from Wiccan Yule Songs of Balefire Coven

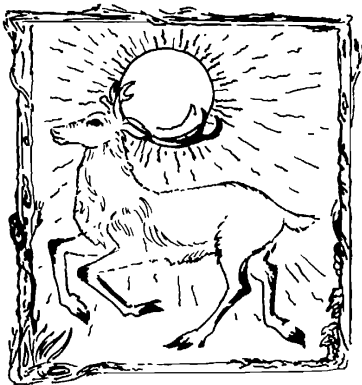
Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Yule  
When the snow lay round about deep in Winter's rule  
Brightly shone the Moon that night though the frost was cruel  
When a poor roe came in sight seeking winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by me. If thou know'st it telling.  
Yonder stag, O whose is he? Where and how his dwelling?"  
"Sire he lives a good league hence underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence by good Brigit's fountain."

"Bring me apples, bring me corn, bring my warm clothes hither  
He shall dine 'fore Solstice morn when we bring them thither."  
Page and monarch, forth they went; forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather

"Page, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, my good King, tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find fierce Winter's sting freeze thy blood less  
coldly."

In the Oak King's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod which the God had printed.  
Therefore, Pagan folk, be sure, any rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the Earth shall, yourselves, find blessing.



## GOD REST YE MERRY PAGAN FOLK

Greenwood Singers

Gods rest ye merry Pagan folk  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember that the Sun returns  
Upon this Solstice day!  
The growing dark is ended now  
And Spring is on its way  
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!  
O, tidings of comfort and joy!

The Winter's worst still lies ahead  
Fierce tempest, snow and rain!  
Beneath the blanket on the ground  
The spark of life remains!  
The Sun's warm rays caress the seeds  
To raise Life's songs again!  
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!  
O, tidings of comfort and joy!

Within the blessed apple lies  
The promise of the Queen  
For from this pentacle shall rise  
The orchards fresh and green  
The Earth shall blossom once again  
The air be sweet and clean!  
O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!  
O, tidings of comfort and joy!

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Greenwood Singers

Joy to the world, the Light has come  
Let Earth receive her Lord  
Let every heart, prepare him room  
And Heaven and Nature sing  
And Heaven and Nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven and Nature sing!

Welcome our Lord, who brings us Light  
Our Lady gives him birth!  
His living Light, to warm our hearts,  
And wake the sleeping Earth (x3)

Light we the fires to greet our Lord  
Our Light, our Life, our Lord!  
Let every voice, sing holy praise  
And Heaven and Nature sing (x3)

## YE CHILDREN ALL OF MOTHER EARTH

Greenwood Singers

Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Ye children all of Mother Earth  
Join hands and circle around.  
To celebrate the Solstice night  
When our lost Lord is found.  
Rejoice, the year has begun again  
The Sun blesses skies up above  
So share the season together now  
In everlasting Love!

## OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL!

Greenwood Singers

Oh, come, all ye faithful  
Gather round the Yule fire  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye,  
To call the Sun!  
Fires within us  
Call the Fire above us  
O, come, let us invoke Him!  
O, come, let us invoke Him!  
O, come, let us invoke Him!  
Our Lord, the Sun!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee!  
Born again at Yuletide!  
Yule fires and candle flames  
Are lighted for you!  
Come to thy children  
Calling for thy blessing!  
O, come, let us invoke Him!  
O, come, let us invoke Him!  
O, come, let us invoke Him!  
Our Lord, the Sun!

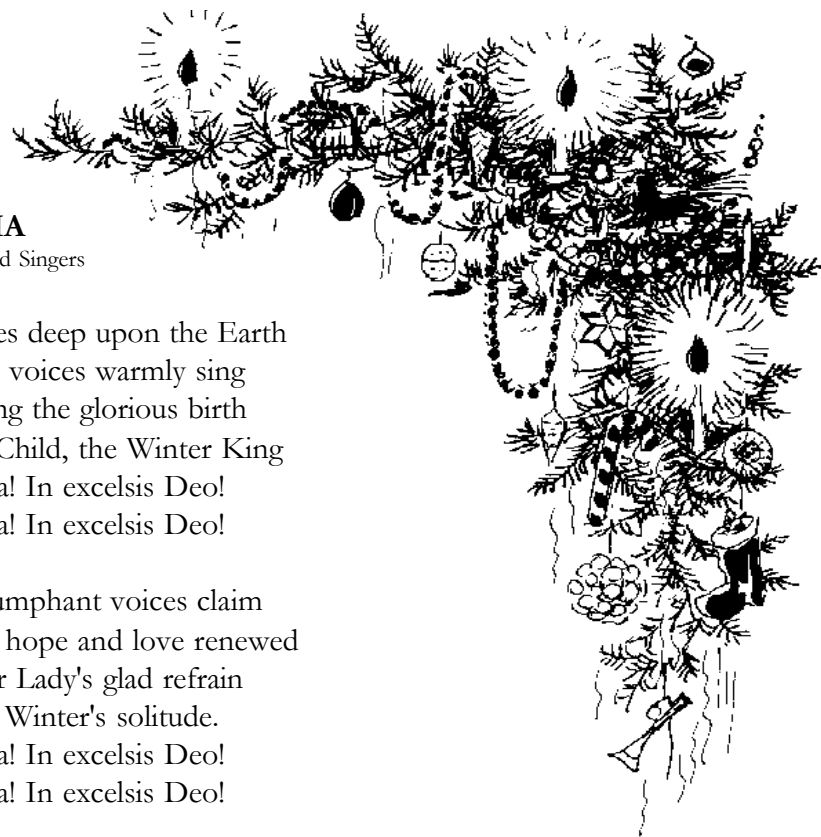


## GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING

Greenwood Singers

Brothers, sisters, come and sing  
Glory to the new-born King!  
Gardens peaceful, forests wild  
Celebrate the Winter Child!  
Now the time of glowing starts!  
Joyful hands and joyful hearts!  
Cheer the Yule log as it burns!  
For once again the Sun returns!  
Brothers, sisters, come and sing!  
Glory to the new-born King!

Brothers, sisters, singing come  
Glory to the new-born Sun  
Through the wind and dark of night  
Celebrate the coming light.  
Suns glad rays through fear's cold burns  
Life through death the Wheel now turns  
Gather round Yule log and tree  
Celebrate Life's mystery  
Brothers, sisters, singing come  
Glory to the new-born Sun!



## GLORIA

Greenwood Singers

Snow lies deep upon the Earth  
Still our voices warmly sing  
Heralding the glorious birth  
Of the Child, the Winter King  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!

Our triumphant voices claim  
Joy and hope and love renewed  
And our Lady's glad refrain  
Answer Winter's solitude.  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!

In her arms a holy Child  
Promises a glowing Light  
Through the winter wind so wild  
He proclaims the glowing Light.  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!

Now the turning of the year  
Of the greater Turning sings  
Passing age of cold and fear  
Soon our golden summer brings.  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!  
Glo---ria! In excelsis Deo!

## **MOTHER BERTA'S COMING TO TOWN**

Greenwood Singers

You better watch out when winter comes nigh  
You better not doubt, I'm telling you why,  
Mother Berta's coming to town.

She carries a sack made out of a skin.  
She dumps the toys out and stuffs the kids in.  
Mother Berta's coming to town.

She rides on Master Skeggi  
A goat whose back is strong  
His beard is grey and scraggly  
And his tail is ten feet long!

With six or eight horns, a mustache or two,  
Make a mistake, she's coming for YOU!  
Mother Berta's coming to town.

She knows with whom you're sleeping  
She knows with whom you wake  
She knows each thought you're thinking  
So don't THINK, for Goddess' sake!

So when the winds howl way up in the sky  
Listen as she and Skeggi pass by  
Mother Berta's coming,  
Mother Berta's coming,  
Mother Berta's coming to town!

## **THIRTEEN DAYS OF SOLSTICE**

Lyrics by Shekhinah Mountainwater

On the first day of Solstice the Goddess sent to me...

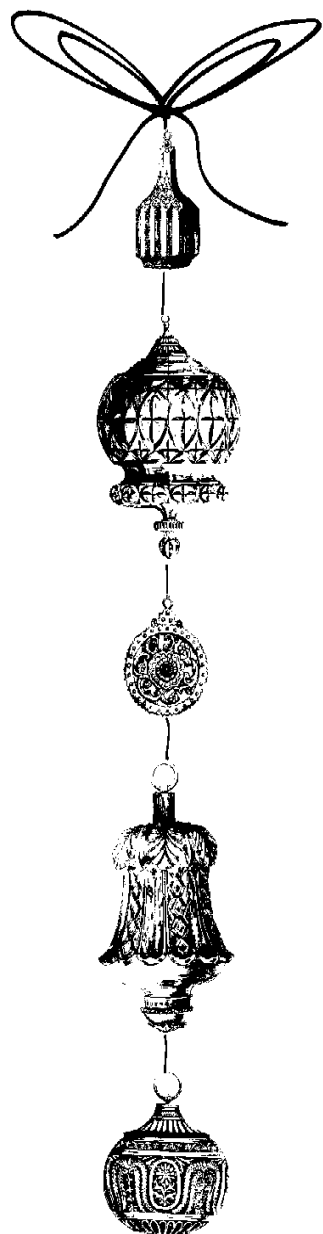
1. Some healing to set my soul free.
2. Gifts from my love
3. A helping dream
4. A branch of evergreen
5. A joyous song!
6. Greetings from my neighbors
7. Magick for the year
8. Fine conversation
9. Nine pearls of wisdom
10. Candles for the lighting
11. Deep contemplation
12. Showers of abundance
13. A grand celebration.

## **LADY MOON SHINES SOFTLY**

Tune: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lady Moon shines softly down  
To light the Earth below  
As we, her children, gather here  
Around the Yule fire's glow  
We wait for morning's dawning  
First light of holy birth  
Our Lady turns the wheel of life  
Her Son returns to Earth  
With joy we'll greet his dawning  
A new year has begun  
With increased light is bright new hope  
Reborn in everyone.





## O YULETIDE TREE

O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
How lovely are thy branches  
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
How lovely are thy branches  
The thought of you as Yule draws near  
Brings joyful tidings of great cheer  
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
To us you are so lovely.

O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
Evergreen and fragrant  
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
Evergreen and fragrant  
We bring you in our home to be  
A sign of life's eternity.  
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
Forever green and lovely.

O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
We thank you for your blessings  
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
We thank you for your blessings  
With golden stars and twinkling light  
You cheer us on this holy night  
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree  
Thou art most fair and lovely.



## SHARE THE LIGHT

Tune: The First Noel

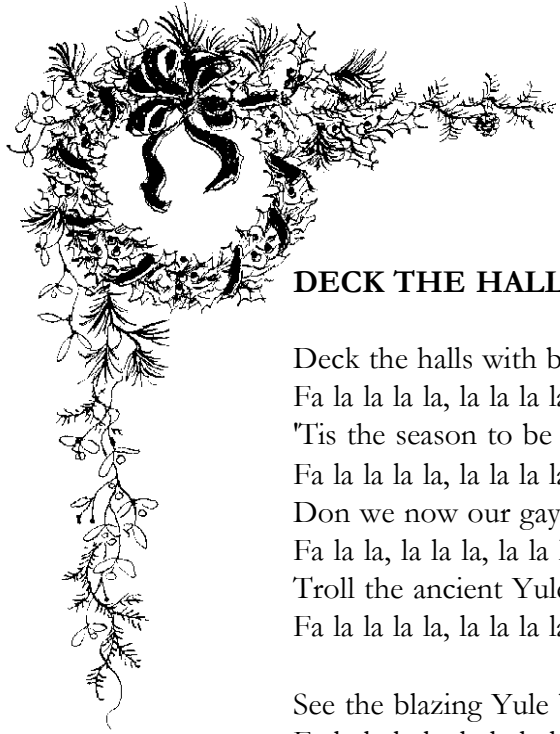
On this Winter holiday, let us stop and recall  
That this season is holy to one and to all.  
Unto some a Son is born, unto us comes a Sun,  
And we know, if they don't, that all paths are one.

### CHORUS:

Share the light, share the light!  
Share the light, share the Light!  
All paths are one on this holy night.

Be it Hanukah or Yule, Christmas time or Solstice night,  
All celebrate the eternal light.  
Lighted tree or burning log, or eight candle flames,  
All gods are one god, whatever their names.

### CHORUS



## DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
'Tis the season to be jolly  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Don we now our gay apparel  
Fa la la, la la la, la la la  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol  
Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing Yule before us,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Strike the harp and join the chorus  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Follow me in merry measure  
Fa la la, la la la, la la la  
While I sing of Yuletide treasure  
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away the old year passes  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Sing we joyous all together  
Fa la la, la la la, la la la  
Heedless of the wind and weather  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

## DANCING IN A WICCAN WONDERLAND

"Alexander and Archer"

Pagans sing, are you listenin'  
Altar's set, candles glisten,  
It's a magickal night we're having tonight,  
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland.

Blades held high, censer smoking,  
God and Goddess we're invoking,  
Through Elements five, we celebrate life,  
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland.

### CHORUS:

In a circle we can light a Yule fire,  
And await the rising of the Sun,  
It's the great Wheel turning for the new year,  
Loaded with abundance and great fun.

Queen of Heaven is in Her place,  
Triple Goddess, now the Crone face,  
Above and Below, She's the Goddess we know,  
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland.

Now the God is the provider,  
Supplying game for our fire,  
Above and Below, He's the Horned one we know  
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland.

### CHORUS

Later on, by the fire  
Cone of Power gettin' higher  
It's a magickal night we're having tonight  
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland.