

And another well known carol

*Love came down at Christmas  
Love all lovely, love divine  
Love was born at Christmas  
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead  
Love incarnate, love divine  
Worship we our Jesus  
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token  
Love shall be yours and love be mine  
Love to God and to all men  
Love for plea and gift and sign...*

*Just looked up the writer of this , honestly didn't realise till I looked it up . It's another Rossetti!*

*Greetings and God's blessings to you all  
throughout Advent and Christmas  
Margaret*



**December 2017**

**Focus on Advent and Christmas**

*Many of our hymns can be used for prayerful reflection.*

*This I knew as poem as a very young child from a book which had previously belonged to a grandmother I never met before ever I came across it as a carol .*

**In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.**

**Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk**

And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air,  
But only His mother  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

### **Focus on Mary**

***This is a hymn written by a member of our circuit and available from Singing the Faith Plus which starts with Christ birth and moves on from there. Same metre , so can use the same tunes!***

## **REMEMBERING MARY**

Mary, joyful mother, resting from the birth

Do you sense the future for your Son on earth?

Angels, shepherds, wise men, all foretell a King,  
But like every mother, you'll know suffering.

Mary, anxious mother, searching for your boy,  
Jesus does not mean to anger or annoy.  
He's still in the temple, asking questions deep.  
This disturbing memory ponder now and keep.

Mary, hurt, excluded, standing in the cold,  
Jesus inside preaching, challenging and bold,  
Seems now to belittle all your love so free.  
Who will be my family? Those who follow me!

Mary, watching sadly by the cruel cross,  
Who can know your thoughts now, grieving in your loss?  
Was it all for this, then? All your years of care?  
He cries, "It is finished!" You weep with despair.

Mary, new disciple, in the upper room,  
Waiting, watching, praying – Spirit's coming soon.  
Mother of the Christ-child, suffering, faithful, true,  
We have now a Saviour. God be praised for you! Words:© Gillian Collins

Suggested tune: "Cranham" (StF 204: In the bleak midwinter) **Bible references:** Luke 2:19 **Luke 2:51** Luke 8: 20-21 **John 19:25** Acts 1:14