

A Selection of
UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS CAROLS
& SHCHEDRIVKY
IN ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

by

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Yonkers, New York

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Sung to the Ukrainian Carol Melodies

Vozveselimsia!
LET US REJOICE!

Let us rejoice all, everybody,
Christ has been born just in a cave shoddy,
In this age stunning, a man becoming.
Rejoice, all people, on the Earth!

Rejoice, all people, on the Earth widely,
Render Him praises that are due rightly,
So long awaited, by Heaven granted,
Who has redeemed the whole wide world!

Who has redeemed the world from Hades,
Through Whom salvation kindly awaits us.
“Glory in the highest, and peace for the lowest!”
Let us sing praises joyfully.

Translated into English by Wolodymyr B. Mykula, October 2010

БОГ ПРЕДВІЧНИЙ
(Boh Predveechny)
ETERNAL GOD
Ukrainian Christmas Carol (17th century)

Eternal God
Has been born today,
Came from Heaven tonight 2x
To save all human kind,
So rejoice we may.

In Bethlehem
He was born to us,
True Messiah, our Christ, 2x
Our Lord for all the times
Has been born for us.

Good news announced
An angel of peace,
To poor shepherds at first, 2x
Then to kings, astrologers,
And to the earthly beasts.

Three eastern kings
Bearing rich gifts come,
To the town of Bethlehem 2x
Where Saint Mary in a den
Gave birth to Her Son.

“Glory to God!”
Let us sing in praise!
Honor to the Son of God One, 2x
Our Lord, the Most Divine,
Let’s render these days!

Translated December 24, 1995

БОГ СЯ РАЖДАЄ
(Boh sya razhdayeh)
GOD IS BEING BORN NOW

A Ukrainian Christmas Carol (18th C.)

Translated into English by Wolodymyr B. Mykula

God is being born now,
who can know it, brother?
Jesus His name is,
Mary is His Mother.

Refrain: Angels here are marveling, 2x
Round the Newborn caroling,
The ox stands trembling from fear,
The donkey is grazing near,
The shepherds are kneeling,
God in body seeing,
Right here, right here now,
Right here, right here now.

Mary, His Mother,
Sings Him beautifully,
And the Angels' choir
Helps Her dutifully.

Refrain: Angels here are marveling... 2x

Joseph, the old man,
Is rocking the cradle:
“Lullaby, o, lullaby,
My little sweet Baby!”

Refrain: Angels here are marveling... 2x

And to the Newborn
Let us honor render!
“Glory in the Highest!”
Let us sing so tender.

Refrain: Angels here are marveling... 2x

Translated December 24, 1995

НЕБО І ЗЕМЛЯ
(Nehboh ee zemlya)
THE EARTH AND HEAVEN

A Ukrainian Christmas carol

The Earth and Heaven 2 x
Are now celebrating,
Angels and people 2 x
Are feasting elated.

Refrain:

Born is Christ Savior,
God incarnated,
Angels are a-singing
Their King are greeting,
Homage Him paying,
Shepherds are a-playing,
“What a wonder!” they are saying.

In Bethlehem City 2 x
News joyful is spreading:
The most pure Virgin 2 x
A Son has born lately.

Refrain: ...

Father’s Word sacred 2x
Embodied is rightly.
In the earth’s darkness 2x
The sun’s shining brightly.

Refrain: ...

And to the Newborn 2 x
Let us honor render.
“Glory in the highest” 2 x
Let us sing so tender.

Refrain: ...

Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula

**IN BETHLEHEM CITY (Во Вифлеємі нині новуна)
(Во Вифлеємі нині новина)**

In Bethlehem City the news is just breaking,
The Most Holy Virgin a Son has born lately.
Swaddled in the manger, among cattle nesting,
God Himself Unbounded lies on fresh hay resting.

Cherubims in Heaven are glory Him singing,
Angelic choirs are greetings Him ringing,

A poor shepherd carries whatever he's able
To offer to God's Son gifts in the dim stable.

Following the star's light, from some eastern regions
Three wise kings are coming with a noble vision:
Gold, silver, and incense, gifts to fill a coffer,
With their kind, sincere hearts they carry to offer,

O, gentle Jesus, we're not wealthy people,
Of gold or silver we can give you little,
But a gift more precious than myrrh we are giving –
That's our hearts faithful with sincere love's feeling.

Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula November 1, 2010

ДОБРИЙ ВЕЧІР ТОБІ, ПАНЕ ГОСПОДАРІЮ
(Dobryj vechir tobi, Pane Hospodaryu)
GOOD EVENING TO YOU, SIR

Good evening to you, Sir, master of the household!

Refrain after each line:

O, rejoice!

O, rejoice the whole Earth

For God's Son has been just born!

Do cover your tables with tapestry precious.

Refrain after each line.

And put on them sweet cakes from white spring wheat flour.
For to you will come soon three feasts as guests welcome.
The first feast to come here will be Christmas Holy.

The second one will be the Saint Basil's feast day.
And the third feast will be Our Lord's Baptism Holy.
May then all your fam'ly celebrate together.
Together your fam'ly and all Ukraine glorious.

*Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula
December 30, 2006*

ПО ВСЬОМУ СВІТУ (Po vsiomu svitu)

OVER THE WHOLE WORLD THE GOOD NEWS IS BORNE
Ukrainian Christmas carol

Over the whole world the good news is borne.
To the Virgin Mary a Son has been born.
She scattered soft hay there, laid Him in the manger,
The Son of Our Lord God.

The Virgin Mary asked Our Lord God
In what should I dress up my dear Son?
Thou, the King of Heaven, send me some fine gifts down
For all these good masters.

Angels from Heaven came down to the Earth.
They brought gifts sacred to Virgin Mary:
Brought three waxen candles and rich silken vestments
For Jesus Christ, Her Baby.

A bright star's shining from Heaven to Earth,
The angels come down to Virgin Mary,
They sing sweet divine songs to the Lord's young mother
Bringing Her joy gladly.

*Translated by Wolodymyr Mykula
December 30, 2006*

ДНЕСЬ ПОЮЩЕ (Dnes' poyushche)
SINGING TODAY, LET US PLAY TOGETHER

Singing today, let us play together,
Christ, the newborn, let us praise and treasure.
Singing Him, glorifying Him,,
“Glory in the highest” all hailing Him.

Nothing can stand by its own will only,
Herod wants to reign himself solely
Over Christ newly born today,
Lying in the manger, swaddled, on hay.

Let us, brothers, sing the Newborn praises,
Let us praise His wisdom in ages,
That newly born Christ has not then been slain,
One from Virgin Mary embodied this day.

*Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula
December 30, 2006*

ЩЕДРИК
BOUNTY EVE (EPIPHANY EVE) CAROL

A Ukrainian Bounty Eve (Epiphany Eve, January 18) Carol

(Ukrainian Bounty Eve carols date back to pre-Christian times. In then, the carolers extol the master of the house and members of his family and wish them good health, good luck and prosperity.)

Bounty wishes we are singing.
A small swallow has come winging.
Started chirping, that bird jolly,
Started our master calling:
“Come out, come out, o, good master!
Have a look at your flock faster!
There the sheep have lambs born plenty,
And the cows have calves brought twenty.
All your herd is good, o, honey,
You will have a lot of money.
But what’s money? That’s chaff merely,
Your wife’s beauty outshines clearly.

Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula

January 1, 2007

A NEW JOY IS RISING
(Nova radist' stala)
A Ukrainian Christmas Carol

A new joy is rising,
Never so surprising,
A bright star above the dark cave
O'er the whole world is shining.

Just where Christ was born in,
From a Virgin saintly,
As a human, poorly swaddled,
Cuddled by Her gently.

Angels there are singing,
Lord God glorifying,
On the Earth and high in Heaven
Peace proclaiming, ringing.

Shepherd boys with a lamb,
The small Child adoring,
On their knees are falling, praying,
Their Lord King now homage paying.

We ask You, Supreme King,
Our Heavenly Ruler,
Grant long years of a life happy
To the master of this household.

To the master of his household
And his charming lady,
Grant true freedom, happy fortune
To Ukraine, o God, sweet Baby!

Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula
November 3, 2010

НА НЕБІ ЗІРКА ЯСНА ЗАСЯЛА

A BRIGHT STAR'S SHINING HIGH ON THE NIGHT SKY

A Ukrainian Christmas Carol

A bright star's shining high on the night sky
And with its brilliance lights up the world,
Greeting the moment for our salvation –
Christ in Bethlehem is being born.
To link the Earth and Heaven together
Christ has been born. Glory to Him!

In a poor den cave, on hay in the manger,
Rests our Ruler, King of the world.
Therefore today, let's to Him hurry,
He waits for our greetings there.
To link the earth and Heaven together
Christ has been born. Glory to Him!

*Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula
November 5, 2010*

В ВИФЛЕЄМІ НОВИНА (V Vyfleyemi novyna) FROM BETHLEHEM STRANGE NEWS COMES

A Ukrainian Christmas Carol

From Bethlehem strange news comes
That a Virgin has born a Son.
She has born Him in a blessed state,
A pure Virgin Immaculate –
Saint Mary.

She has laid Him on fine hay
In Bethlehem's stable-cave.
Angels flying down from Heaven
Help to swaddle the gentle Baby
Of Mary.

*Translated by Wolodymyr B. Mykula
November 5, 2010*