

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish folk carol

Two different SSA a cappella arrangements:
“Soulful Close Harmony” and “Classical Chorale”



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Vs. 1 & 2: Translation by Edith M. G. Reed
Vs. 3: Elizabeth Alexander

SSA: Soulful close harmony

Polish folk carol
Arr. Elizabeth Alexander

Tenderly, soulfully

S I

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing* vig - il til the morn - ing
3. Long - a - wait - ed, cel - e - bra - ted, babes are born each day and

S II

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his bed a ___ cat - tle ___
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing* vig - il til the ___ morn - ing
3. Long - a - wait - ed, cel - e - bra - ted, babes are born each ___ day and

A

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing* vig - il til the morn - ing
3. Long - a - wait - ed, cel - e - bra - ted, babes are born each day and

(for rehearsal only)

5

S I

stall. Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of
new. Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Ti - dings of a gos - pel
night. Pre - cious stran - gers laid in mang - ers or on bed - ding clean and

S II

stall. Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is ___ Lord of ___
new. Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Ti - dings of a ___ gos - pel ___
night. Pre - cious stran - gers laid in mang - ers or ___ on bed - ding ___ clean and ___

A

stall. ___ Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of
new. ___ Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Ti - dings of a gos - pel
night. ___ Pre - cious stran - gers laid in mang - ers or ___ on bed - ding clean and

* Plan ahead so you don't have to take a breath after "keeping" in verse two. (Stagger breathing if necessary.)

9 | 1.2.

S I
all. Swift are wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, No - els ring - ing, Tid - ings
true. Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the

S II
all. Swift are wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, No - els ring - ing, Tid - ings
true. Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the

A
all. Swift are wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, No - els ring - ing, Tid - ings__
true. Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the__

13

S I
bring - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. _____
mor - row, Christ the babe was born for you. _____

S II
bring - ing, Christ the babe _____ is Lord of__ all, is Lord of all.
mor - row, Christ the babe _____ was born for__ you, was born for you.

A
bring - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all, _____ is Lord of all.
mor - row, Christ the babe was born for you, _____ was born for you.

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cadena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom • Jessica Corbett, editor • David Cummings, poet • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and serum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister and composer advocate • Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet • Louise Erdrich, writer • David Allan Evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pasha Gertler, poet • Jack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Jocelyn Hagen and Michael Hagan, founders of Graphite Marketplace • Steve Harper, just about everything • Steve Harkins, web designer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George Heald, piano technician • Karel Husa, composer and teacher • David Ignatow, poet • Kabir, mystic • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and serum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Kalidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer • Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet • Dorothy Knost, piano teacher • Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Music-Theater • Denise Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet • Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, conductor and composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • J. David Moore, composer • Gerald Rich, poet • Carl Sandburg, poet • friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son • Steven Stucky, composer and teacher • Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director • Anna Vonhuben, illustrator and graphic designer • Nancy White, poet • John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

**A lot of hard work
and creativity went
into bringing this
music to you...**



**...and some of it
was even mine.**

**This page has been intentionally omitted.
(You know why.) A complete perusal score may be
purchased through any music store or dealer.**

Elizabeth Alexander
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25

S I
light, _____ love's pure light. _____ Ev' - ry birth brings love's pure _____

S II
light, _____ love's pure light. _____ Ev' - ry birth brings love's pure _____

A
light, _____ love's pure light. _____ Ev' - ry birth brings love's pure _____

28 **Meno mosso**

S I
light. Ev' - ry birth brings love's pure light, love's pure light, _____

S II
light. Ev' - ry birth brings love's pure light, love's pure light, love's pure light.

A
light. Ev' - ry birth brings love's pure light, brings love's pure light, brings love's pure light.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

SSA: Classical chorale

Vs. 1 & 2: Translation by Edith M. G. Reed
Vs. 3: Elizabeth Alexander

Polish folk carol
Arr. Elizabeth Alexander

Tenderly, simply

p

S I

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall. Ox - en
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing* vig - il til the morn - ing new. Saw the
3. Long - a - wait - ed, cel - e - bra - ted, babes are born each day and night. Pre - cious

S II

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall. Ox - en
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing* vig - il til the morn - ing new. Saw the
3. Long - a - wait - ed, cel - e - bra - ted, babes are born each day and night. Pre - cious

A

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall. Ox - en
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing* vig - il til the morn - ing new. Saw the
3. Long - a - wait - ed, cel - e - bra - ted, babes are born each day and night. Pre - cious

(for rehearsal only)

6

S I

low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are
glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Ti - dings of a gos - pel true. Thus re -
stran - gers laid in man - gers or on bed - ding clean and bright. New hearts

S II

low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are
glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Ti - dings of a gos - pel true. Thus re -
stran - gers laid in man - gers or on bed - ding clean and bright. New hearts

A

low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are
glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Ti - dings of a gos - pel true. Thus re -
stran - gers laid in man - gers or on bed - ding clean and bright. New hearts

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Elizabeth Alexander

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The Music of Elizabeth Alexander

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Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Edith M. Reid (vs. 1 & 2) & Elizabeth Alexander (vs. 3)

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall.
Oxen lowing, Little knowing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing,
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil til the morning new.
Saw the glory, Heard the story
Tidings of a gospels true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you.

Long-awaited, celebrated,
Babes are born each day and night.
Precious strangers laid in mangers
Or on bedding clean and bright.
New hearts beating, Old hearts warming,
Blessed greeting all-transforming,
Every birth brings love's pure light.

Verse 3 © 2018 by Elizabeth Alexander
Verse 1 and 2, first published in 1921, are in the common domain

Why does this publication include *two* arrangements of the same carol?

The composer writes: “I created the “Classical Chorale” arrangement of *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* in 1997 for a Christmas service at my church, where it was performed by a trio of high school girls. Revisiting the same carol twenty years later, I wondered how this Polish carol might be interpreted in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio where I spent my childhood. This thought experiment led to the creation of the “Soulful Close Harmony” arrangement!

In both versions, the traditional English lyrics by Edith M. Reid are followed by an original third verse which speaks to the blessing ushered forth by all births.

Cover Art: “Shepherds Find Him” by Joan Bohlig / www.bohliggraphics.com

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