

Upon the Snow-clad Earth

Carol for Christmas-tide

Arthur Sullivan

1. Up - on the snow-clad earth with - out, The stars are shin - ing_ bright, As
2.'Twas in the days when far_ and_ wide Men owned the Cae - sar's_ sway, That

Heav'n had_ hung out all_ her_ lamps To hail the_ fes - tal night; For
his_ de - cree went forth,_ that_ all A cer - tain_ tax should pay. Then

on this night long years_ a - go, The Bless - ed babe was born, The_
from their home in Na - za - reth's_ vale, O - be - dient to the same, With_

saints of old were_ wont to keep Their_ vi - gil un - til morn.
Ma - ry his es - pous - ed wife, The_ saint - ly Jo - seph came.

3. A stable and a manger, where
 The oxen lowed around
Was all the shelter Bethlehem gave,
 The welcome that they found!
 Yet blessed among women was
 That holy mother maid
Who on that night her first-born Son
 There in the manger laid.

4. The King of kings, and Lord of lords,
 E'en from His very birth,
 Had not a place to lay His head,
 An outcast in the earth:
And yet we know that little Babe
 Was tender to the touch,
 And weak as other infants are;
 He felt the cold as much!

5. In swaddling bands she wrapped Him round,
 And smoothed His couch of straw,
While unseen Angels watched beside,
 In mute, adoring awe.
How softly did they fold their wings
 Beneath that star-lit shed,
 While eastern sages from afar
 The new-born radiance led!

6. And thus it is, from age to age,
 That as this night comes round,
So sweetly, underneath the moon,
 The Christmas carols sound.
 Because to us a Child is born,
 Our Brother and our King,
Angels in Heaven, and we on earth,
 Our joyful anthems sing.