

## In the bleak midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
4. 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.

*Lyrics by Christina Rossetti*

*Music Gustav Holst (1906, Cranham) and Harold Darke (1911)*

*Other melodies Benjamin Britten, Robert C L Watson, Bruce Montgomery, Bob Chilcott,  
Michael John Trotta, Robert Walker, Eric Thiman and Leonard Lehrman*