

# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

words: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849; music, Richard Willis



1.It came up - on — the mid - night clear, That glo - ri - ous song — of old,  
 2.Still through the clo — ven skies they come, With peace — - ful wings — un - furled;  
 3.But with the woes — of sin and strife The world — has suff — -ered long;  
 4.And ye, be -neath — life's crush - ing load Whose forms — are bend — -ing low,  
 5.For, lo! the days — are hasten - ing on By pro — -phet bards — fore - told,



From an - gels bend — - ing near the earth To touch their harps — of gold:  
 And still their heav - en - ly mus - ic floats O'er all the wear — - y world:  
 Be -neath the an — - gel - strain have rolled Two thou - sand years — of wrong;  
 Who toil a - long — the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps — and slow,  
 When with the ev — - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age — of gold:



"Peace on the earth, — good - will to men, From heav - en's all gra - - cious King!"  
 A - bove its sad — and low - ly plains They bend — on hov — -ering wing,  
 And man, at war — with man, hears not The love — song which — they bring:  
 Look now; for glad — and gol - den hours Come swift — - ly on — the wing:  
 When peace shall o — - ver all the earth Its an — - cient splen — - dors fling,



The world in sol — - emn still - ness lay To hear the an — - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o'er — its Bab - el sounds The bless - éd an — - gels sing.  
 O hush the noise, — ye men of strife, And hear the an — - gels sing!  
 O rest be -side — the wear - y road And hear the an — - gels sing.  
 And the whole world — give back the song Which now the an — - gels sing.

as it appears in Hymns of the Spirit, 1937