

Alternative Christmas Carols:

O Come All ye Faithful

O come all ye Faithful
Those who care for justice,
O look ye, O look ye at Bethlehem.

Come and behold it,
Under occupation.
O come let's not ignore it,
O come let's not ignore it,
O come let's not ignore it –
Tell the world.

Sing all ye people,
Sing in indignation,
Be with the citizens of Bethlehem.

Sing out for justice,
Freedom from oppression.
O come let's not ignore it,
O come let's not ignore it,
O come let's not ignore it –
Tell the world.

O come all ye faithful
Those who care for justice,
O look ye, O look ye at Bethlehem.

Deborah Maccoby, Just Peace 2002

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet, in the dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight

O sad and troubled Bethlehem
we hear your longing cry
For peace and justice to be born
and cruel oppression die.
How deep your need for that great gift
of love in human form,
Let Christ in you be seen again
and hearts by hope made warm.

While morning stars and evening stars
shine out in your dark sky,
Despair now stalks your troubled streets
where innocents still die.
And Jesus, child of Mary,

whose love will never cease,
feels even now your pain and fear,
longs with you for your peace.

Amazingly and lovingly
Jesus, the child, has come
and brought to birth through human pain,
makes broken hearts his home.
He comes to comfort all who weep,
to challenge every wrong
and, living with the weak and poor,
becomes their hope, their song.

Last three verses: Wendy Ross - Barker
From: Shine on Star of Bethlehem published by Christian Aid

Christian People Raise your Voices

Christian people, raise your voices,
Tell of Bethlehem today,
Suffering while the church rejoices,
Fearful, where the peace-child lay.

When you share the Christmas story
Let the truth of it be heard.
Look beyond the tinsel glory;
Listen for the Living Word.

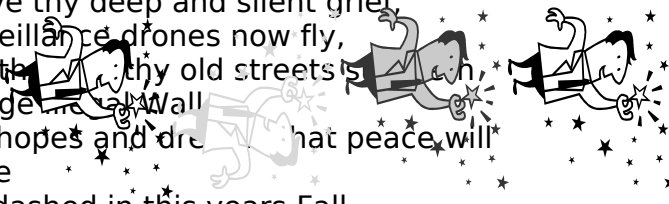
Hear him in his people's weeping
Feel their longing and despair.
Threat of harm disturbs their sleeping,
Wake, God's people, be aware.

© Wendy Ross-Barker 2004
Tune: Stuttgart

O little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
Imprisoned you now lie
Above thy deep and silent grief,
Surveillance drones now fly,
And the old streets
A huge Wall
The hopes and dreams that peace will
come
Are dashed in this years Fall

O morning stars together,
Look down upon this crime.
The people sing to God the King
But justice, who can find?



Yes, Christ was born of Mary.
God's love remains supreme.
But mortals sleep as children weep,
Their pain is never seen.

How silently, how silently
The world, the church protests.
As checkpoints grow and towns confined,
As settlers steal and rest.
No ear may hear the outcry,
As Israel's Wall is built
While meek souls muse, Apartheid rules -
We speak or share in guilt.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Give strength to us we pray.
Cast out our fears and open eyes.
O give us voice today!
We stand against injustice,
The occupation must end.
May justice rule our Lord's birthplace,
May Christ's peace descend.

Stephen Leah 2007

The wall must fall - the wall must fall
If peace on earth is to come
The wall must fall

They've cancelled wise men in Bethlehem
They've cancelled shepherds in
Bethlehem
They've stopped the wise men at the
checkpoint and the shepherds can't leave
home
They're under curfew in Bethlehem

Chorus:
Though angels are singing

The wall must fall - the wall must fall
If peace on earth is to come
The wall must fall

See www.amostrust.org for download
Words & Music Garth Hewitt 2007
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They've Cancelled Christmas - in Bethlehem (The Wall Must Fall)

They've cancelled Christmas in Bethlehem
They've cancelled peace in Bethlehem
In a land once known as holy the gun is in
control
They've cancelled Christmas in Bethlehem

They've cancelled freedom in Bethlehem
They've cancelled hope in Bethlehem
They've locked the little town behind a
ghetto wall
They've cancelled Christmas in Bethlehem

Chorus:
Though angels are singing - they're
trapped behind the wall
Yet angels keep singing down in Beit
Sahour
And if our Christmas songs and prayers
are not to be in vain
We must pull down that prison wall that's
strangling Bethlehem.