

Baby Born Today

Informant/ Performer:
Mary Mann
Darien, GA, 1926

Source:
Seeger, Ruth Crawford
American Folk Songs for Christmas
Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1953

Solo *Group*

1. Moth - er Ma - ry, what is the mat - ter? Oh, Je - ru - s'lem in the morn - ing.

2. Fa - ther Jo - seph, what is the mat - ter? Oh, Je - ru - s'lem in the morn - ing.

3. A ba - by born to - day___ Oh, Je - ru - s'lem in the morn - ing

4. Born___ in the man - ger, Oh, Je - ru - s'lem in the morn - ing.

5. They wrapped him in swaddling clothes, Oh, Jerus'lem in the morning.

6. Stall was His cradle...

7. Born in Bethlehem...

8. Born in the manger...

9. Jerus'lem, Oh, Jerus'lem...

10. Baby born today...

Background Information

This is an old traditional "shout" sung during Christmas Eve Watch Night service. A singer begins a line, the group joins in on the refrain, another line is begun -- and the song continues a long time. New lines are improvised at will, and old and new are returned to again and again in no prescribed order.