

Christ Was Born

Informant/Performer:
Ruth Brown
Mountain Lake Park, WV

Source:
Maurice Matteson
American Folk-Songs for Young Singers
New York: Schirmer, Inc., 1947

Christ was born in Beth - le - hem, In a low - ly sta - ble lay,
Christ was born in Beth - le - hem, In a low - ly sta - ble lay,
Christ was born in Beth - le - hem, In a low - ly sta - ble lay,
Born to save the souls of men, Peace on earth this Christ-mas day.
Born to save the souls of men, Peace on earth this Christ-mas day.
Born to save the souls of men, Peace on earth this Christ-mas day.

2. Son of Mary, Lord is He,
Christ was born in Bethlehem.
Son of Mary, Lord is He,
Come to save us all from sin.

Background Information

This is a type of "white spiritual", as Dr. George Pullen Jackson of Nashville, Tenn., calls the sacred folk-song. There are many of these beautiful melodies sung in the rural and mountain sections of our country. I have called this one a carol but some may prefer to call it a white spiritual. It is widely sung in West Virginia and was performed for me at Mountain Lake Park by Miss Ruth Brown. The minor mode enhances the beauty of the tune.