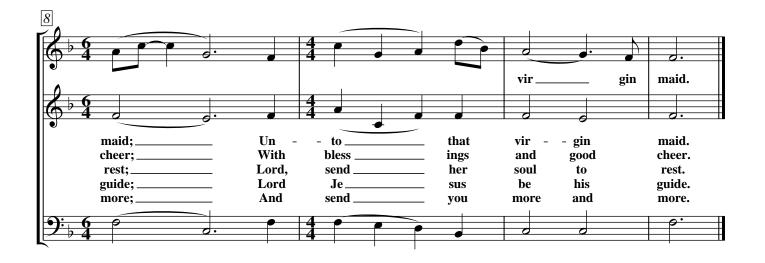
Horsham Tipteerers Carol Sussex Mummers Carol





- When righteous Joseph wedded was Unto a virgin maid,
 A glorious angel from Heaven came Unto that virgin maid;
 Unto that virgin maid.
- 2. As joyful shepherds brought their gifts To Christ, the savior dear.

 And so we come upon this night With blessings and good cheer;

 With blessings and good cheer.
- 3. God bless the mistress of this house With gold all round her breast; Where e'er her body sleeps or wakes, Lord, send her soul to rest; Lord, send her soul to rest.
- 4. God bless the master of this house With happiness beside; Where e'er his body rides or walks, Lord Jesus be his guide; Lord Jesus be his guide.
- God bless your house, your children too, Your cattle and your store.
 The Lord increase you day by day, And send you more and more;
 And send you more and more.

This carol was collected by Lucy Broadwood near Horsham, Sussex, in 1880, from the singing of Christmas mummers locally known as tipteers or tipteerers. Its verses were something of a mix: a stanza from another carol about The Annunciation; some moralistic lessons; and several blessings common to other house-visiting wassails. In this version from Finest Kind, the song keeps the opening verse and the house-visting verses, eliminates the lessons, and adds a new verse written by Shelley Posen.