

In Praise of Christmas

To Drive the Cold Winter Away

Words: Tom Durfey (1653-1723)

Tune: 18th Century



1. All hail to the days that mer - it more praise, Than all of the rest of the
 2. Tis ill for a mind to an - ger in - clined To think of small in - jur - ies
 3. This time of the year is spent in good cheer, And neigh - bours to - geth - er do
 4. When Christ - a - mas's tide comes in like a bride, With hol - ly and i _____ vy



year, _____ And wel - come the nights, that dou - ble de - lights, As well for the poor as the
 now, _____ If wrath be to seek, do not lend her your cheek, Nor let her in - ha - bit thy
 meet, _____ To sit by the fire, with friend - ly de - sire, Each oth - er in love for to
 clad, _____ Twelve days in the year, much mirth and good cheer In e - ver - y house - hold is



peer! _____ Good for - tune at - tend each mer - ry man's friend, That doth but the best that he
 brow. _____ Cross out of thy books ma - lev - o - lent looks, Both beau - ty and youth's de -
 greet. _____ Old grud - ges for - got are put in the pot, All sor - rows a - side they
 had. _____ The coun - t - ry guise is then to de - vise Some gam - bols of Christ - mas



may, _____	For	get - - - ting	old	wrongs	with
-cay, _____	And	whol - - - ly	con -	- sort	with
lay; _____	The	old	and	the	young
play, _____	Where	at	the	young	men
					do



ca - - rols and songs, To drive the cold win - - ter a - - way. _____
 mirth and with sport, To
 ca - - rol this song, To
 the best that they can, To

1. All hail to the days that merit more praise
Than all of the rest of the year,
And welcome the nights that double delights
As well for the poor as the peer!
Good fortune attend each merry man's friend
That doth but the best that he may,
Forgetting old wrongs with carols and songs
To drive the cold winter away.
2. Tis ill for a mind to anger inclined
To think of small injuries now,
If wrath be to seek, do not lend her your cheek,
Nor let her inhabit thy brow.
Cross out of thy books malevolent looks,
Both beauty and youth's decay,
And wholly consort with mirth and with sport
To drive the cold winter away.

3. This time of the year is spent in good cheer,
And neighbours together do meet,
To sit by the fire, with friendly desire,
Each other in love for to greet.
Old grudges forgot are put in the pot,
All sorrows aside they lay;
The old and the young doth carol this song,
To drive the cold winter away.
4. When Christmas's tide comes in like a bride,
With holly and ivy clad,
Twelve days in the year, much mirth and good cheer
In every household is had.
The country guise is then to devise
Some gambols of Christmas play,
Whereat the young men do the best that they can
To drive the cold winter away.