

O Come, Thou Prince of Peace



by
A. Fletcher Clark III

I could not accept that Christmas carols must be old. And I particularly focused on the little-discussed role of Joseph in the Lord's birth and upbringing. Before I realized it, this new carol emerged, and fortunately I was paying enough attention to write it down.



© 2018, Flécha3 Music Publishing (ASCAP)
Lockhart, Texas
All Rights Reserved.

O Come, Thou Prince of Peace

by A. Fletcher Clark III



O Come, O Come Thou Prince of Peace, bring Thy redeeming love.
O Come, O Come Thou Prince of Peace, a gift from God above.
When God sent down His angel's charge to bring forth Mary's son,
He promised Joseph endless love, the Prince of Peace to come.



God sent them then to Bethlehem to bear the holy child,
And in a lowly cattle shed found shelter from the wild.
There with a manger for a bed, young Jesus came to life,
With gentle Joseph at the side of his beloved wife.



Then came three wise men from the east to seek the living Lord.
While following a brilliant star, they sought God's promised word.
They brought with them their gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh,
Then bowed there at sweet Mary's side in reverence to her.



While shepherds tended in the hills, an angel came to say:
"Go down, go down to Bethlehem, for Christ is born this day!"
They found Him in a manger bare with glory all around,
Then left to go and spread the news, their joyous words resound:



"The Lord is come, the Prince of Peace, the gift from God above.
O Come, O Come Thou Prince of Peace, who brings His endless love.
Our sins replace with God's own grace, and fill our hearts with joy.
We thank Thee, Father, for this gift of this most holy boy."



O Come, Thou Prince of Peace

Fletcher Clark

Flowingly (= 126)

Flowingly (= 126)

1. O come, o come, Thou Prince of Peace, bring Thy re - deem - ing
2. God sent them then to Beth - le - hem to bear the ho - ly
3. Then came three wise men from the east to seek the liv - ing
4. While shep - herds tend - ed in the hills, an an - gel came to
5. "The Lord is come, the Prince of Peace, the gift from God a -

love. child, Lord. say: above." O and in a low - ly cat - tle shed found
While fol - low - ing a bril - liant star, they
"Go down, go down to Beth - le - hem, for
O come, o come, Thou Prince of Peace, who

gift shel - ter from God a - bove. When God sent down His
sought God's prom - ised wild. There with a man - ger
Christ is born this word. They brought with them their
brings His end - less day!" They found Him in a
Our sins re - place with

an - gel's charge to bring forth Ma - ry's son, He
for a bed, young Je - sus came to life, with
gifts of gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh, then
man - ger bare with glo - ry all a - round, then
God's own grace, and fill our hearts with joy. We

prom - ised Jo - seph end - less love, the Prince of Peace to come.
gen - tle Jo - seph at the side of his be - lov - ed wife.
bowed there at sweet Ma - ry's side in re - ver - ence to her.
left to go and spread the news, their joy - ous words re - sound:
thank Thee, Fa - ther, for this gift of this most ho - ly boy.

D.C.

Come, Thou Prince of Peace

Fletcher Clark

Flowingly ♩ = 126

1. O come, o come, Thou Prince of Peace, bring Thy re-deem-ing
 2. God sent them then to Beth-le-hem to bear the ho-ly
 3. Then came three wise men from the east to seek the liv-ing
 4. While shep-herds tend-ed in the hills, an an-gel came to
 5. "The Lord is come, the Prince of Peace, the gift from God a-

love. O come, O Come Thou Prince of Peace, a
 child, and in a low-ly cat-tle shed found
 Lord. While fol-low-ing a brill-iant star, they
 say: "Go down, go down to Beth-le-hem, for
 bove." O come, O Come, Thou Prince of Peace, who

gift from God a-bove. When God sent down His
 shel-ter from the wild. There with a man-ger
 sought God's prom-ised word. They brought with them their
 Christ is born this day!" They found Him in a
 brings His end-less love. Our sins re- place with

an-gel's charge to bring forth Ma-ry's son, He
 for a bed, young Je-sus came to life,
 gifts of gold and and Je-sus came to life,
 man-ger bare with and Je-sus came to life,
 God's own grace, and fill our hearts with joy. We

D.C.

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass staff joined by a brace on the left. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) instruction.

prom - ised Jo - seph end - less love, the Prince of Peace to come.
gen - tle Jo - seph at the side of his be - lov - ed wife. —
bowed there at sweet Mar - y's side in rev - er - ence to her. —
left to go and — spread the news, their joy - ous words re - sound. —
thank Thee, Fa - ther for this gift of this most ho - ly boy." —



As I settled in Lockhart, Texas, I intended to visit a different church each Sunday, beginning with Emmanuel Episcopal (the denomination in which I was raised). Here I was captivated by the simple elegance of a small chapel with its modest wooden pews, the casual yet pious demeanor of the congregants, an organist playing with sincerity and skill. There was no choir, but all sang uninhibitedly. The service was distantly familiar from my pre-teen acolyte duties, and the kindly rector had completed his sermon in seven minutes! A folk trio made a joyful noise with an old standard for the recessional. Setting aside the plan of visiting other churches, I found home. The doors had opened and I walked in!

*As I later began to play with the church musicians, Fr. Tom Bruns told me in his gentle yet firm voice that music was my ministry - a viewpoint I had never considered. I had written some faith-based songs, but here I had folks eager to hear new music. I could write a song on Thursday and hear it played and sung on Sunday. I continued to write more songs and hymns, some completely original, some as new musical settings for lyrics from our hymnal. Soon I had amassed enough to self-publish my Personal Hymnal, **Open Up the Doors**, and I had written the settings for the liturgy of a 'folk mass'. Visiting other churches with my musical ministry, both for services and concerts, in 2014 I released the CD **Open Up the Doors**.*

Our Episcopal Diocese of West Texas hosted a Music Retreat in the Mountains at our camp in Colorado, where I shared four days of study with two veteran music directors and a young organist, under the guidance of Charles Webb (world-renowned organist and Dean Emeritus of the University of Indiana School of Music). Having the input and support of these fine musicians has proved invaluable. Of course, I am indebted to Fr. Tom for his spiritual guidance, and to Julie Michie (also of Emmanuel). I also benefit from the guidance of Fr. Ben Nelson (St. Mark's in San Marcos) in reaching out with my ministry to his and other churches. At a chance (?) encounter at a Williams College reunion, I met The Very Rev. Cynthia Briggs Kittredge (now Dean and President of the Seminary of the Southwest), who was an early and continuing supporter of my ministry.

Fletcher Clark

Emmanuel (originally Immanuel) Episcopal Church was organized by Rev. Joseph Wood Dunn on his arrival in Lockhart, Texas in August 1853. Dunn delivered his first sermon to a large crowd on August 21, 1853, in a small schoolhouse borrowed for the occasion. In 1854, after he was informed that the school was no longer available for services, he set about raising funds for a church building.

The structure, completed in 1856, is the oldest known unaltered church building in use by Protestants in Texas. This small, one-story masonry structure has simple Gothic trim and utilizes the basic plan of an entrance vestibule and central nave.

In 1964 the church was listed as a Texas landmark, and in 1974 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1976 an extensive restoration returned the building to its original state. Workers removed the wooden floor and repaired and finished the limestone slabs. Dunn's Bible and Prayer Book are displayed in a glass cubicle in the Parish Hall.

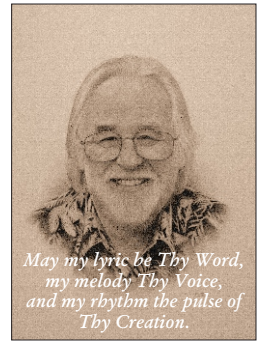


11/14/18

Fletcher Clark

songwriter ~ performer ~ producer ~ engineer

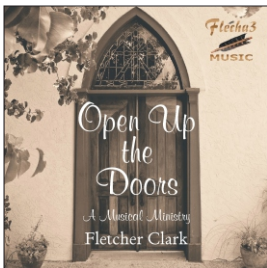
Characterized as *old school Austin troubadour* by music writer Ronnie Narmour, Fletcher's songwriting is influenced by the Texas singer-songwriters for whom he has been sideman or producer, as well as by his love of jazz, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, blues, R&B, rock, folk, bluegrass, C&W, latin, etc. He is also influenced by his long-time involvement with the Kerrville Folk Festival. In the 1970's, his Texas show band, **Balcones Fault**, brought all these musics together for scores of sold-out shows at Austin's legendary Armadillo World Headquarters (for which he was VP of Marketing).



The broad range of Fletcher's songs is presented with superlative instrumental and vocal skills. He recurrently appears at select listening rooms, house concerts and festivals, connecting personally with his enthusiastic audiences. Residing in Lockhart, Texas, just south of Austin, Fletcher produces and hosts the highly successful series **Evenings with the Songwriter** (EveningsWithSongwriter.com) at the historic Dr. Eugene Clark Library.



In 2010, Fletcher brought Armadillo Records and Armadillo Music (ASCAP) back to life by recording Hank & Shaidri Alrich for their critically acclaimed CD **Carry Me Home**. Then Fletcher produced **TAKING TURNS** for Armadillo Records, a collection of twelve of his original songs recorded by twelve different artists and ensembles, using Austin's best session players, engineers, and studios. As a showroom for his songwriting and producing skills, Executive Producer Hank Alrich said, "There's just not been another project like Fletcher Clark's **TAKING TURNS**. *That's Austin music!*"



In 2014, Fletcher released **Open Up the Doors** on his label Flécha3 Music, twelve songs from his Personal Hymnal which form the core of his musical ministry. The songbook and CD are both available online. He presents these and other songs of faith (as well as his complete Folk Mass) to select congregations and audiences. For historical societies, museums and libraries, together with his colleague historian/author Donaly Brice, he performs **SONGS OF SUSANNA** (based on his epic ballad *There Must Be a Good Man in Texas* about Texas heroine Susanna Dickinson, *Messenger of the Alamo*) and **Runaway Scrape** (the saga of the fleeing Texian citizenry before the advancing army of Santa Anna). These and other songs of Texas are recorded on this 2016 release.



After repeated requests from friends and fans, in 2018 he released **MY TURN**, a sequel collection of performances of his songs produced and recorded by him. He continues to write, compose, and record for music lovers, churches, libraries, museums, and classrooms, with several additional collection soon to be available as recordings and songbooks.



In addition to special appearances for church and historical audiences, Fletcher regularly appears at select venues, listening rooms, festivals and house concerts. He performs solo or with sidemen, depending on event/venue. He also offers and participates in songwriter/audio workshops & song swaps.



contact
fletcher@Flecha3Music.com

Flécha3 MUSIC
Flecha3Music.com



11/1/18