

We Are Lights – Texts & Translations

This Little Light of Mine – text traditional Spiritual

Let it shine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

All day and all night, this little light, I'm gonna let it shine.

My God gave it to me; I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine!

Fire – text by Patricia Taylor (age 13)

I am fire. You know me

For my warmth and light

For my crackling, leaping

Colored light

Which comforts all.

I am fire. You know me

For my endless moving,

Burning, destroying hunger

Which eats all.

I am fire. I have one foe

Who conquers my might,

Who quenches my thirst,

Who swallows my light.

The Candlelight Canon – text by Audrey Snyder

On a dark and stormy night when it's bitter cold outside,

When the chilly wind is calling to the lost and alone,

Here inside we're safe and warm where we're sheltered from the storm,

As we gather 'round the candle's radiant glow.

Candlelight, burning brightly in the night,

Shed your warm and golden glow and enlighten the heart and soul.

May your flame kindle spirits once again

And reflect the heart's delight in your magical candlelight.

Come into the light.

Leave behind the dark, lonely night.

Come in from the storm. Come into the warm.

Come into the candlelight.

Aurora Borealis – text by Amy F. Bernon

I took a train moving west, heading north into the tundra, through the silent snow.
The little towns I passed were quiet in the dark,
All the fishermen gone home from their day out on the sea.

And as the night filled the air so still and cold,
I looked up to see a world of green and gold.

Aurora Borealis above me, swirling colors in the sky.
Aurora Borealis around me, surround me.
Guide me home through the dark and wild Alaska night.

I was looking for a place I've never been: a wilderness, a land of open spaces,
A little town with a room to call my own, a view of life, a window on the water.

And as I saw the land unfolding, ridge and peak,
The northern lights displayed their magic over me.

The wolves are running, racing the train.

Inscription of Hope – text anonymous, adapted by Z. Randall Stroope

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,
And I believe in love even when there's no one there,
And I believe in God even when He is silent.
I believe through any trial, there is always a way.

But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair,
My heart cries for shelter to know someone's there.
But a voice rises within me, saying, "Hold on, my child.
I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while."

May there someday be sunshine.
May there someday be happiness.
May there someday be love.
May there someday be peace.

Jingle Bell Swing – text by James Lord Pierpont, adapted by David J. Elliott

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way.
Bells on bob tails ring, oh, making spirits bright.
Oh what fun it is to swing a jingle bell tonight.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to swing a jingle bell tonight, yay!
Jingle bell swing-along, jingle bell swing-along, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to swing a jingle bell tonight.

Jingle swingle bells, do bee do dit dit do dah.
Jingle swingle bells, do dit dit do dit.
Jingle swingle here, do bee jingle swingle there.
Oh what fun it is to swing a jingle bell tonight.

The Chain – text by Ingrid Michaelson

The sky looks pissed. The wind talks back.
My bones are shifting in my skin, and you, my love, are gone.
My room seems wrong. The bed won't fit.
I cannot seem to operate, and you, my love, are gone.

So glide away on soapy hells and promise not to promise anymore
And if you come around again, then I will take the chain from off the door.

I'll never say I'll never love,
But I don't say a lot of things and you, my love, are gone.

Set Fire to the Rain – text by Adele Adkins

I let it fall, my heart, and as it fell, you rose to claim it.
It was dark, and I was over until you kissed my lips and you saved me.
My hands, they were strong, but my knees were far too weak
To stand in your arms without falling to your feet.

But there's a side to you that I never knew, never knew.
All the things you'd say they were never true, never true
And the games you'd play you would always win, always win.

But I set fire to the rain, watched it pour as I touched your face.
Well, it burned while I cried 'cause I heard it screaming out your name.

When I lay with you, I could stay here, close my eyes,
Feel you here forever. You and me together, nothing is better.

But there's a side to you that I never knew, never knew.
All the things you'd say they were never true, never true
And the games you'd play you would always win, always win.

But I set fire to the rain, watched it pour as I touched your face.
Well, it burned while I cried 'cause I heard it screaming out your name.
I set fire to the rain and I threw us into the flames.
Well, I felt something died 'cause I knew that that was the last time.

Sometimes I wake up by the door.
That heart you caught must be waiting for ya.
Even now when we're already over,
I can't help myself from looking for ya.

Night of Silence – text by John F. Young & Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life.
We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise.
Fire of hope is our only warmth;
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear, you whisper softly
Rumors of a dawn so embracing.
Breathless love awaits darkened souls.
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star.
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love.
Star, unknowing of night and day,
Spirit, we wait for your loving Son.

*Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child –
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.*

Lux Aurumque – text by Edward Esch, translated into Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Light,
Warm and heavy as pure gold

And the angels sing softly
To the newborn baby.

Laus Deo – text traditional Latin

Praise be to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you.
We worship you, we glorify you.
Glory to God in the highest!

Star of Wonder – text by Terre Roche

Star of Wonder in the heavens,
wonder what you want of me?
Should I follow you tonight?

Star of Wonder,
Star of Wonder!

I am just a lonely shepherd,
watching from a distant hill.
Why do you appear to me?

Star of Wonder,
If you will.

In the morning they'll come looking
for the shepherd on the hill.
What would make her leave her flock,
for surely she must love them still?

Star of Wonder in the heavens,
Are you just a shining star
or should I follow you tonight?

Star of Wonder,
Star of Wonder
Shining bright!

The Work of Christmas – text by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

“Go!” said the Star – text by Ryan Main

“Go,” said the star to its light:
“Follow your fathomless flight!
Into the dreams of space
Carry the joy of my face.
“Go!” said the star to its light:
“Tell me the tale of your flight.”

As the words rang out the heavens through,
Quick the light dashed; unheard, it flew.
It warmed hearts with a tender gleam,
And lit the path of dreams.
“Go!” said the star to its light:
“Tell me the tale of your flight.”

For ages it shined and ages it went,
But now the light dimmed; a call it sent.
The light told its tale,
Its gleam grew pale.

“No!” said the star to its light:
“Let my words burn forever bright!”

“Now go,” said the star to its light:
“Follow your fathomless flight!
Now shine, and gleam, fly on, and beam,
And light the path of dreams.”

“Go!”

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer – text by Johnny Marks

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen.
But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows.
All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games.
Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say,
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
Then how the reindeer loved him as they shouted out with glee,
"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history!"

Flashlight – text by Sia Furler

When tomorrow comes, I'll be on my own,
Feeling frightened of the things that I don't know.
When tomorrow comes...
And though the road is long, I look up to the sky,
And in the dark I found lost hope that I won't fly,
And I sing along.

I got all I need when I got you and I.
I look around me and see a sweet life.
I'm stuck in the dark, but you're my flashlight.
You're getting me through the night.
Can't stop my heart when you're shining in my eye.
Can't lie: it's a sweet life.
I'm stuck in the dark, but you're my flashlight.
You're getting me through the night.

I see the shadows long beneath the mountaintop.
I'm not afraid when the rain won't stop,
'cause you light the way.

Light, light, light, you're my flashlight.

Orion – text by Faith Zimmer

Most mourn the falling leaves,
The weight of death the ground receives.

Yet you rise in Winter's Chill,
And in the gloom you still believe.

Most mourn the setting sun.
The aging day is overcome.
Yet you rise in Twilight Still,
And night reveals you one by one.

Carefully the constellations
Bend their knees to your dictation.
Standing guard with quiver ready,
Stance you've held for centuries, steady,
Warrior high above the earth,
You tell us of our worth.

Most mourn the sinking mast,
The ocean's pull into the vast.
Yet you rise at Memory's Will,
And you will stand on ages past.

A Child is Born – text by Nick Page

A child is born, Allelujah!
Magnificent glory, Allelujah!
Magnificent light, Allelujah!

Magnified in glory, magnified in light.
Sing allelujah.

The Chanukah Song (We Are Lights) – text by Steve Young

A lamp that kept on burning, a miracle they say;
But the world has kept on turning. Are there miracles today?
Everyone who lights the candles has a bit of ancient spark.
We are miracles, lighting up the dark.

We are lights, lights of memory,
Remembering times long gone.
We are glowing, growing miracles.
We are lights, shining on and on.

A row of burning candles shines light upon your face,
Linking you and me and all of us to a far-off holy place.

But the blazing of the candles is not the only light.
Look at all of us, shining here tonight.