

The Ditchling Carol

melody: Peter Preston

words: William Robert Spencer (1811)

Chorus:

1. Be mer-ry all, be mer-ry all, With hol-ly deck the fes-tive hall, Pre-pare the song, the feast, the hall, to

Verse:

wel-come mer-ry Christ-mas. And all re-mem-ber gen-tles gay, For you who bask in for-tune's ray,

The year is all a ho-li-day. The poor have on-ly Christ-mas.

2. You who in velvet mantle go, Defy December's tempest's roar.
Oh, spare one garment from your store To clothe the poor at Christmas.
3. You who the costly banquet deal To friends who never famine feel,
Oh, spare one morsel from your meal To feed the poor at Christmas.
4. With blazing logs of fuel the while, Your homes are within summer's smile.
Oh, spare one log from off your pile To warm the poor at Christmas.
5. So shall each note of mirth appear More sweet to Heaven than praise or prayer,
And angels in their carols there Shall bless the poor at Christmas.