

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*German and Latin, 14th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1855; alt.*

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

man-ger now. Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
ev - er-more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
last-ing hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

This carol is very old. Heinrich Suso, a German mystic who died in 1366, related a vision in which angels, singing this carol, drew him into a dance. The words were originally macaronic, combining Latin phrases with the vernacular.

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.8.5.5.
*German melody, 14th century
Harm. adapt. from John Stainer, 1871
Descant, H. A. Chambers, 1931*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

Last time, end

Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

This is one of the few spirituals heard inside as well as outside African-American churches. It was adapted by John Wesley Work II, who is remembered as the director of the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University.

Tune: African-American spiritual
Adapt. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992