

The Real Night before Christmas
Deacon George Collins

'T was the night before Christmas and all through the church
The pews were all filled, even to the highest perch.
The decorations were hung in the sanctuary with care
In anticipation of the Savior, who soon would be there.
The choir was seated and ready to go
The smiles on their faces gave them a glow,
I in my alb, the priests in theirs too,
The choir was poised in their robes, oh so new.
At the stroke of midnight baby Jesus was born
Amid smiles of delight all worries were gone.
The wails of the new born resounded through creation
And the angels appeared with great adulation.
The animals too, did share their accommodation
As Mary and Joseph knelt in adoration.
They placed Him in a manger to keep Him from harm
And the animals' breath kept Him cozy and warm.
The choir of angels and the choir of man,
As the celebration began, burst forth in glorious song,
For Jesus came into the world where He did belong.
Princes came from afar and others from the glen
The shepherds of sheep, the shepherds of men.
All in wonder their hearts seeking
The age old promise that God is now keeping.
For all of mankind, their way to heaven may find
Poverty of heart had no place in His life
For it brings only disappointment and strife.
So our hearts were prepared in the confessional with care
So brotherhood and love would be our prayer.
The gift that He brought us was peace
In the joy of giving, and a new way of living,
That the hope in our hearts would increase.
Let the bells in the steeple; reach out to the people.
For the king of joy is a little boy;
The world knew as a dreamer, who became our Redeemer.

We bend our knee in prayer this holy night
For we have been shown the way to God's glorious light.
And now a merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.