

Love Came Down at Christmas

*Christina Rossetti's poem:
A setting by Rilla Paterson 2021*

*SATB
a cappella*

Love came down at Christmas,
Love, all lovely, love divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign. Amen

Love Came Down at Christmas

Competition entry for Radio 3 Breakfast Carol Competition 2021

Poem by Christina Rossetti

Rilla Paterson © November 2021

$\text{♩} = 50$
mp

Soprano
Love came down at Christ-mas, Star and an-gels gave the sign.

Alto
mp
Star and an-gels gave the sign.

Tenor

Bass

3
p

1. Love came down at Christ-mas, Love all love-ly, love di-vine,

p

1. Love came down at Christ-mas, Love all love-ly, love di-vine, —

p

1. Love came down at Christ-mas, Love all love-ly, love di-vine, —

p

1. Love came down at Christ-mas, Love all love-ly, love di-vine.

5

Love was born at Christ - mas, Star and ang - els gave the sign;

Love at Christ - mas, Star and ang - els gave the sign;

Love at Christ - mas, Star and an - gels gave the sign;

gave the sign;

7

p Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, love di - vine;

p Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, love di - vine;

p Love came down at Christ - mas, Love, love di - vine;

p Love came down at Christ - mas, Love, love di - vine;

9

Love was born at Christ-mas, Star and an-gels gave the sign.

Love was born at Christ-mas, Star and an-gels gave the sign.

Love was born at Christ-mas, Star and an-gels gave the sign.

Love was born at Christ-mas, Star and an-gels gave the sign.

11 *mf*

2. Wor-ship we the God-head, Love in-car-nate, love di-vine;

2. Wor-ship we the God-head, Love in-car-nate, love di-vine;

2. Wor-ship we the God-head, Love in-car-nate, love di-vine;

2. Wor-ship we the God-head, Love in-car-nate, love di-vine;

13

Wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?

but where - with for sa - cred

but where - with for sa - cred

but where - with for sa - cred sign?

15

f
Wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?

sign? Where - with for sa - cred sign?

sign? Where - with for sa - cred sign?

f
Where - with for sa - cred sign?

f
Where - with for sa - cred sign?

rit. - - - -

17

Where, where, where - with for sa-cred sign? Where-withfor sa-cred sign?

Where, where, where - with for sa-cred sign? Where-withfor sa-cred sign?

Where, where, where - with for sa-cred sign? Sa - cred sign?_

Where, where, for sa - cred sign? Sa - cred sign?

A tempo

20

mp
3. Love shall be our to - ken, Love be yours and love be__ mine;

mp
3. Love shall be our to - ken, Love be yours and love be__ mine;

mp
Love be yours and love be__ mine;

mp
Love be yours and love be__ mine;

22

mf
Love for plea and gift and sign;

mf
Love for gift and sign;

mf
Love to God and all men, Love for gift and sign;

mf
Love to God and all men, Love for gift and sign;

24

f
Love, Love be yours and love be mine;

f
Love shall be our to - ken, Love be yours and love be mine;

f
Love shall be our to - ken, Love be yours and mine;

26

f

Love to God and all men; all men; Love to God and all men; Love to God and all men;

28

Love to God and all men, Love for Love, Love for Love, Love for Love, Love for

rit.

29

The musical score consists of four staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The lyrics are: "plea and gift and sign. A - men, A - men". The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) for the second and third measures of each line. The first measure of each line contains the lyrics "plea and gift and sign." and the following two measures contain "A - men, A - men". The music is written in a common time signature and features various note values including quarter, eighth, and dotted notes, as well as rests. The Soprano staff uses a treble clef, the Alto and Tenor staves use a soprano clef (C1), and the Bass staff uses a bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.