

Behind the Hymn: Love Has Come!

In the mid-1980's I began writing new texts for familiar Christmas tunes that had no accessible Christian text. I believed that the new text needed to feel like it belonged to the melody. Thus in each case I worked to maintain something of the flavor of the original text and tune. For example:

The Promise ("The Holly and the Ivy")

Infinite Lord ("Coventry Carol")

Light Is Shining All Around ("Ding, Dong, Merrily on High")

Partners in the Mystery ("Good King Wenceslas")

Deck the Halls

Here We Come Rejoicing ("Here We Come A-wassailing")

Jesus ("Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring")

On Christmas Day ("I Saw Three Ships")

The Flower ("Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming")

The Lamb of Christmas ("The Friendly Beasts")

In December, 1993, I decided to try a new text for the carol, "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella". The theme of "love" immediately came to mind. That theme and the bright, lively nature of the tune suggested words and phrases like, "Love has come," "light in the darkness," "explodes," "love is born," "love within us," and more. I started work on the text December 18 and completed it December 22, 1993.

Since then the carol has been published many times, including use in several hymnals and inclusion on a widely-circulated recording from Integrity Music and Time-Life Publications, "Songs 4 Worship, Christmas".

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [Love Has Come!](#)