

Carols for Consecration

Beloved truths
for singing to the melodies of
Beloved carols



By
Freda Farmer

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Introduction



The purpose of this little book. The purpose of this little book is to increase joy in your daily life, by giving you words to sing with the gladness of heart that comes from a consecrated life. The words on these pages express biblical truths written to be sung to the melodies of beloved Christmas carols.

Why new words for old hymns? One autumn afternoon about a year ago, when I was pondering Isaiah 41:10, the phrase “Look! The Lord my God is near” floated up in my mind to the melody of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” As I wrote those words, more followed. Friends liked the “new” words and thought, as I did, that they would help keep the Word of God in mind during daily life. I desperately needed that! I was learning that keeping my mind filled with and focused on God’s truth kept my heart at peace and empowered me to live free of depression and anxiety.

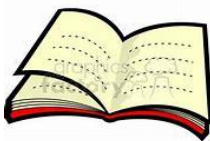
Over the next year, I grew more healed and more whole as I saw, hour by hour, day by day, the Word replacing dark thoughts and feelings and self-absorption with God’s light and life and concern for others. I kept writing poetry, whenever God gently put phrases in my thoughts, and I planned, tentatively, to write a booklet of new words for Christmas carols.

For months, I faithfully labored to re-establish the regular writing habit depression had stolen. I also labored to establish habits of mind and heart that--I have learned to my unspeakable delight--keep my heart close to my beloved Jesus, free of depression and fear.

Gradually, writing became more regular, with poems dropping onto the page more often. Suddenly, it was November. I asked God to help me write twelve or so carols by Thanksgiving, so I could put the booklet on my blog (www.wordsofhopeandhealing.com) in time for Christmas.

For the next two weeks, God graciously gave a carol a day, sometimes two. I began the day by singing one carol, over and over, while getting dressed, driving the car, standing in line at the grocery, or waiting to pick up my grandsons.

As I sang the beloved old carols, I jotted the new words that came to mind on grocery lists, the back of the pages of Bible verses I carried with me to memorize, and receipts in the glove box of the car. Rarely, it seemed, did the words come when the small notepad I carried was available.



Sometimes all the verses of a song were finished while I was out and about, doing daily life. Other times, I got part of some verses and then got stuck. When the flow of metrical words faltered, I found that searching the Word always supplied truth that finished the verse and so often started another.

At the same time God was pouring out the poetry He also poured out even deeper grace to keep myself calm. What a priceless, gracious gift from the One who loves each of us so! I pray these words help you also receive greater strength to abide in the peace that comes from awareness of His presence.

Why new words for Christmas carols? Music aids memory, and we all need more of God's Word hidden in our hearts. One reason we remember words of songs is that words embedded in music are more easily recalled. Once we learn the melody of a song, it is easy to learn new verses.

Many of us learn the most often-heard Christmas carols in childhood, and so these melodies are already imprinted in our hearts. Along with the melodies, the biblical truth contained in the verses of Christmas carols is also imprinted in our hearts.

As we sing these recast verses, I pray that Holy Spirit grafts these additional biblical truths into the melodies already in our hearts and that these Biblical seeds bear much fruit in our lives.

In this season of giving, may His love be our reason for living.

Love and prayers,

Freda



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**Living Daily Life
for
Jingle Bells**



Living daily life,
in this crazy world,
sometimes is so hard,
that my heart grows weak!

But Jesus lives in me,
and in His joy I'm strong,
so I say to you, my friend,
come laugh and sing alo-ong!

Oh, Jesus laughs, Jesus laughs!
Ho, ho all the way!
Jesus loves to laugh and play,
every single day!



**Inside My Own Heart
for
Away in a Manger**



[1] Inside my own heart, in God's secret place,
I talk with my Jesus, we talk face to face.
Although I can't see Him, I know He is real.
He gives me His peace, a peace I can feel.

[2] He loves me each day, He loves me each night.
And all through the day He makes all things right.
He's walking beside me, He is my best friend,
He's with me forever, on Him I depend.

[3] Outside it is dark, outside it is cold
With Jesus inside me I'm strong and I'm bold.
I know He is with me, for I feel His hand.
He's with me forever. He helps me to stand.

[4] No matter the problem, no matter the fear.
I trust my Lord Jesus. I know He is near.
He's strong and He's mighty and He cares for me.
He loves me forever. He simply loves me.

Dedicated with all my love forever, to my two grandsons.

Nana



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**May Body, Soul, and Spirit Be
for
We Three Kings**



[1] May body, soul and spirit be
A gift consumed by my great King!
Wholly worthy, cleansed by living holy unto Thee!

[2] May my life, bring praise to Your name,
and show Your love, the reason You came.
You came to love us, came to save us, so we could live with You.

[3] May You, my Lord, keep making me whole!
May You, my Lord, keep cleansing my soul!
When I yield to You, my King, love heals every stain.

[4] You deserve my highest praise,
my King Most High, for endless days.
May You rule and may You reign, 'til only love remains.



***The Very First Time
For
The First Noel***



[1] The very first time, I knew God was real
He touched my heart with love I could feel
I heard in a song that He truly loved me
that I by His mercy and grace could be free.
His promise was for me, if I just believed
through Jesus His pardon I would receive.

[2] So I gave Him my heart, I gave Him my soul
and since that day I've been made whole.
No more do I feel so alone and so weak
for I am the one He came to seek.
Oh, Shepherd true! Oh, Shepherd strong!
Oh, Shepherd, my Shepherd, You are my song!

[3] You changed my soul, You healed my life.
No more is my heart tormented by strife.
In Your mercy great, in Your mercy true,
My Lord You've created a heart that's new.
Oh, blessed wondrous gift, that You live in me,
that I by Your grace am joyful and free!

[4] Oh, Lord, You are great! Our whole world's in Your hands.
By Your wonderful strength You fulfill all Your plans.
You are having Your way in our world that is true.
You are winning o'er evil by making us new.
You are bringing peace, you are bringing joy,
and it all begins with Your baby boy.

The Very First Time – Continued

[5] When we call Him our King, when we give Him our all,
You are faithful to answer and heed every call.
You are with us every night, You are with us each day.
You are with us and help us to walk in Your way.
Oh, Comforter sweet! Oh, Comforter sure!
Oh, Lord help us love You with love that is pure!

Our Shepherd true! Our Shepherd strong!
Oh, Shepherd, our Shepherd, You are our song!



*I Truly Love You
for
Angels from the Realms of Glory!*



[1] I truly love You, oh, my Jesus,
so I follow Your commands.
Now You've sent the Helper to me.
In Your strength, Lord, now I stand.
Now, I know You! Now I see you because You abide in me!

[2] I love because You died on Calv'ry,
shed Your blood to make me free.
You who sacrificed Your own life
now have come to live in me!
Make me holy, make me worthy, help me live in purity!

[3] Spirit, teach me to remember
all that Jesus said to do.
Grant me strength to live in Your peace,
to calm my heart and trust in You.
Come, oh Spirit, come oh Spirit, come and help me honor You!

[4] Lord, I know Your life is in me
for my heart is not the same.
Thank You, Lord, that You have changed me.
No more do death and darkness reign.
Your new nature, lives within me, joy eternal, in Your name!

***I Dwell in God's Own Secret Place
for
Joy to the Word***



[1] I dwell in God's own secret place.
He overshadows me.
His mighty power no foe can withstand.
In Him I am at rest,
In Him I am at rest,
In Him, in Him I am at rest!

[2] I say of God, He is my Lord,
my Rock, my refuge.
On Him I lean, most confidently!
I lean, rely and trust,
I lean, rely and trust,
I lean, I lean, rely and trust!

[3] He rescues me, from every trap
because I dwell and trust.
He keeps me from all harm and deadly disease.
I live abundantly,
I live abundantly,
I live, I live, abundantly!

[4] He covers me with His great wings.
I trust and dwell in peace.
His promises my armor, his wings my steadfast shelter.
In Him I say "Rejoice!"
In Him I say "Rejoice!"
In Him, in Him, I say "Rejoice!"



**Since Jesus Taught My Soul to Keep
for
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**



[1] Since Jesus taught my soul to keep my thoughts fixed on His name.
He keeps my soul in deepest peace, my life is not the same.
No more do doubt and fear persist, no more do they prevail.
His promises sure and strong! They never ever fail.

[2] A journey high, a journey deep to renew this dark mind
for Satan had me bound in lies, the worst, the cruelest kind.
I felt my God rejected me whenever I was weak
but truth soon taught me these He loves. These are the ones He seeks.
He longs to heal the weakest heart, to redeem every part.

[3] My God has promised He will lead whenever I walk with Him.
He'll keep me safe by His great power and by His light within.
His Word will be a lamp so bright for every step I take.
His truth will always guide me, for His great name's sake.

[4] I know not what my future holds in life's amazing race,
but I will live with Him one day and see Him face to face.
One day when all earth's torments cease, when life on earth is through,
I'll reign with Jesus up above, in power and in truth.

[5] So while I live on earth below, I'll trust Him and do good.
I'll keep my thoughts fixed strong on Him, the way He says I should,
for then He'll keep my soul in peace, He'll carry me through each day
Devoted, leaning, hoping in Him, with confidence always!

Since Jesus Taught My Soul to Keep - continued

[6] For God, my Lord, gives everlasting, never ending grace!
He helps me daily to arise and run our joyous race.
I run with Him to win the prize, forgetting all that's past.
I work with holy, sacred hands, I work for that which lasts!

[7] Let's labor in His harvest field, go forth with seed to sow!
Let's give our best and give our all so that His vineyard grows.
For He, the Lord of Harvest says, "My fields are ripe with gold,
and you, My servants, you must go. Go forth! In faith be bold!
Do not shrink back, but go in trust, for I am very near
to those who keep My just commands, who listen and who hear.

[8] As I was with Paul, Joshua, with Moses and the rest,
I'll go with you, My fearful child, I'll go and you will be blessed.
I'll bring you into My good land, and surely you will be fed,
for you, My child, you are My lamb. Come, go where you are led!



***My Fearful Heart, My Fragile Soul
for
O Little Town of Bethlehem***



[1] My fearful heart, my fragile soul, why do you doubt and fear?
For God your King is powerful, and He is very near.
He watches over you with care, takes note of where you go-o,
So wait and hope and expect Him.
He's helping you to grow.

[2] Here in the silence of my heart I'm learning to depend.
He's teaching me from His great law to hide myself in Him.
He's working all things for my good. In all things He is faithful,
to teach my heart to follow Him, to trust Him as I should.

[3] When life in this old evil world brings torment without cease,
our God wants our minds fixed on Him, safe, guarded, kept in peace.
He knows our every weakness, He knows our hearts are frail,
and so He sent Emmanuel. In Him we never fail!

[4] When you are feeling all alone, like you don't have a friend,
remember Satan's lies are lies, and trust makes darkness end.
For every time we call on Him, He answers us with light,
and on His strength we can depend!
We're girded in His might!



**Needy Were We
for
Silent Night**



[1] Needy were we, shackled by sin,
made to delight, we turned from the right,
followed our own hearts, going astray.
That is why You came to stay,
to live in our hearts always,
to live in our hearts always.

[2] In light of Your gift, the greatest of loves,
I give You my heart, fix my mind up above.
Jesus, I ponder heavenly things,
store up treasure where angels sing.
Jesus, how I thank You!
Jesus, how I thank You!

[3] Faithful is he, Jesus our King,
Ruler of all, everything.
Creator, Father and Friend.
He'll be with us to the end.
Oh, how great is His love!
Oh, how great is His love!

[4] We call You our King, give You our all.
You are faithful, hear every call.
You are with us by day and by night.
Call us chosen and Your delight.
Help us, Lord, to praise You!
Help us, Lord, to praise You!

Needy Were We - continued

[5] Oh, Shepherd true, oh, Shepherd strong!
Shepherd, oh Shepherd, You are my song!
Lord, help me sing of Your faithfulness!
Oh, help me please You with thankfulness!
You, my God, are my King,
cherished above everything!



*Oh, Lord I Need You
for
O Come, All Ye Faithful*



[1] Oh, Lord, I need You, for my soul is thirsty!
I hope in You, Lord, though my soul is disturbed.
I will remember, all our times of joyfulness.
You show me love all day,
You sing to me at night,
You clothe me with Your light, I hope in You!

[2] Oh, Lord, You show mercy, to all of those who seek You,
to those who depend on Your loving heart.
So, Lord, I'm waiting, trusting in Your nature.
For You, oh Lord, are good,
For You, oh Lord, are faithful,
For You, oh Lord, are loving, our mighty great King!

[3] I love You, by living, daily as I should.
Oh Lord, lead me now in righteousness.
Don't let me stray, from Your blessed presence!
Oh, Father, help me love You!
Oh, Father, make me holy,
Oh, Father, let me please You, and call You my King!

[4] Oh Lord, You are mighty! You're my great Defender!
Oh, Lord, I say You are the only God!
None are before You. To You alone be glory!
I praise You, oh my Father!
I praise You, my dear Savior,
I praise You, Holy Spirit, My God, three in one!

***Be Lifted Up, My Downcast Soul
For
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen***



[1] Be lifted up, my downcast soul, be lifted up in spirit,
for God is speaking His great love. Oh, listen, can you hear it?
He tells of His great love for you so that you can draw near it.
For nothing is greater than love,
greater than love!
Oh, nothing is greater than love!

[2] He knows just what you need, dear one. He'll never ever fail you.
He's faithful and He's good, dear friend. He'll always see you through.
Through valleys deep and mountains high, He'll be your Shepherd true.
He forever is giving us His love,
giving His love!
He forever is giving us His love!



[3] He cares more deeply than we know, remembers we are
just clay,
and for our weakness He's prepared a simple glorious way.
If we but walk in His footsteps, our path will be as day.
Oh, come dear friend, and walk with Him,
walk with our King!
Oh, come now and walk with our King!

[4] Oh, to the soul that trusts in Him He's faithful, strong and true.
He'll grant your heart's secret desire. He'll make your mind renewed.
For when you take delight in Him, He blesses all you do.
Oh, come and delight in Him,
delight in Him!
Oh, come and delight in Him!

***Look! The Lord My God is Near
for
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***



[1] Look! The Lord my God is near, He will keep me safe from fear.
Though the enemy roar, God is king forevermore.
I submit to God's great hand. He will lift me up to stand.
Casting all my care on Him, on His love I can depend.
Look! The Lord my God is near, He will keep me safe from fear!

[2] I can keep my heart controlled. God Himself indwells my soul.
I'm alert, and I watch out for the devil prowls about.
I resist him, I stand strong, though the trial might feel long.
In my weakness, He gives grace, so I rise and run my race!
I can keep my self controlled. God Himself indwells my soul!

[3] My God covers me with peace. All my fears and worries cease!
He will keep me in His rest as I think on what is best.
In my weakness, He is strong. He will keep me from all wrong.
I will walk with Him in love. I will keep my mind above.
My God covers me with peace. All my fears and worries cease!

[4] God Himself has full control. He who rules earth rules my soul!
He will give me grace to fight. We will win o'er darkest night!
Nothing that attacks me stands, for He holds me in His
hand!
God is faithful. He will save! This the banner that I wave!
God Himself has full control. He who rules earth rules my
soul!



***I Hear My Master Call to Me
for
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day***



[1] I hear my Master call to me, “Come, follow, child and you’ll be free.
Come take your cross, count life as loss,
make Me your King, of everything.

[2] For if your heart will let Me reign, My blood flow will wash every stain.
You will be new and all you do
will bring new life and hope to you.

[3] For what is seen, it will not last. It will decay into the past.
But what you do for Me endures.
It’s stored in heaven, safe, secure.

[4] So rise, My child, go forth and sow. My seeds of truth will surely grow.
They’ll bear good fruit, My harvest yield,
and with your hands, My church I’ll build.

[5] My Church eternal, my loved Bride, she whom I bought by crimson tide.
She waits in beauty in My sight.
So come, My Child, and join the fight!”

[6] I praise the Father, praise the Son, I praise the Spirit, three in one,
for He gives life, He gives it all
each time I heed His loving call.

I Hear My Master Call to Me - continued

[7] I give my life, I give my heart, I give my God each wounded part.
By faith He'll help my soul to grow
We'll overcome! This truth I know!

[8] My God, Almighty, makes the way. He knows I'm weak, recalls I'm clay.
Love frees me from the devil's snare.
How blessed is this love we share.

[9] That I am weak is in His heart, imprinted in the deepest part.
So I imprint upon my soul
His blessed law that makes me whole!

[10] I trust on Him, I do depend. By faith I know this night will end.
And then I'll walk with deepest peace.
We'll journey on, with faith released!



***What Gift is this?
for
What Child is This?***



[1] What gift is this You've given me? The Comforter abiding,
Who lives within, new Bethlehem,
Divine and human union.
This, this Your greatest gift, that You should live within us!
Peace, peace, Your blessed peace, the sacred gift You give us!

[2] You counsel me, You help me, You advocate for me,
You strengthen me, You stand by me,
You are my Intercessor.
In You, I am content, in You I can do all things,
In You, I am made strong, oh precious Holy Spirit!

[3] What joy, what peace, what confidence that You'll
abide forever!
My Comfort sweet, my King, my Rock,
Oh! strong indwelling Power!
My heart to You I give, my strong and tender Abba!
Oh heart, rise up and sing, for God Himself indwells you!



[4] Sweet gift it is, to love Your law, to follow in Your precepts,
To show our love and so be loved
by God, our mighty King!
Joy, joy to know You live and that You reign within me!
Joy, joy, that You delight in this, my humble offering.

Hail Christ! He is my King, my God Who's fighting for me,
Hail Christ! He lives in me, oh blessed sweet assurance!

***Jesus Sent the Strengtheners
for
Angels We Have Heard on High***



[1] Jesus sent the Strengtheners,
to abide in human hearts,
to be our Guide, our Comfort sure,
so by faith we can endure!
Gloria, He lives within and I am strong!
Gloria, Jesus keeps me safe from wrong!

[2] With God's Word inside in our mind,
we're not deceived. We are not blind!
We will walk in His great light. With spirit weapons we will fight!
Gloria, God's Word never, ever fails!
Gloria, by His might we shall prevail!

[3] With God's love for all mankind,
we will seek and we will find
His lost sheep who went astray.
We will lead them in His way.
Gloria, what great love lives in His heart!
Gloria, by His grace we'll do our part!

[4] Light will pierce the darkness deep.
We will find our Shepherd's sheep.
Then we'll feed them with His love.
Our Lord's harvest we will reap!
Gloria, in my Shepherd's steps I go!
Gloria, I go with truth seeds to sow!

Jesus Sent the Strengtheners - continued

[5] As I love Him, He loves me,
keeps my soul and spirit free,
and my song shall ever be
that my God loves even me!
Gloria, oh how can this blessing be?
Gloria, that my God loves even me!

[6] All praise, all glory unto Him,
whom I worship and adore!
He is my faithful, loving One,
He's my Lord forevermore!
Gloria, to my God who is Most High!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!



**I Am Safe in Father God's Heart
for
Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly**



[1] I am safe in Father God's heart.
He guards my mind with His great peace.
Jesus keeps me close beside Him,
as I trust in Him, all strivings cease.
Holy Spirit is my Comfort,
daily giving guidance that I need.
I am leaning, full on my God.
By His sweet grace, His word I heed.

[2] My Father wrote His law on my heart
and now I know what I should do.
He's changed me by renewing my mind.
That old mind is all made new!
I do not live like this old world.
Holy Spirit gives His purity.
He will never ever fail me.
Jesus lives in me, and I am free!

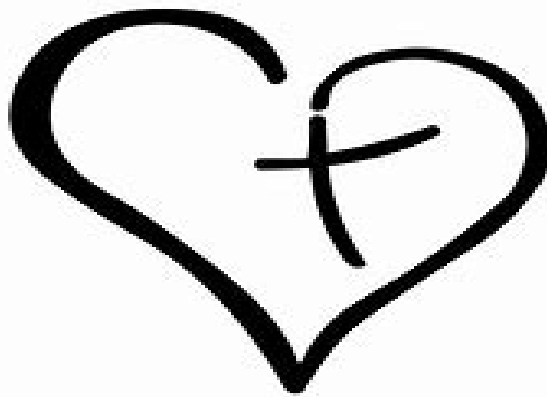


[3] I quote the Word like Jesus taught me.
Satan rarely draws my heart astray.
As I keep my mind on God's truth,
Holy Spirit comes and makes the way.
He brings His angel armies round,
darkness is defeated, fear cast down.
Oh, what glorious grace I've found.
May praises to my King ever resound!

I Am Safe in Father God's Heart - continued

[4] Darkness cannot truly harm me.
Jesus keeps me safe in every way.
Nothing darkness tries prevails.
Jesus lives in me, love split the veil!
No weapon that is formed can conquer!
In this truth I shout and sing!
Holy Spirit lives within me.
He is very God, my King of Kings!

[5] "Not by power, nor by might"
sayeth my God, I hear Him call.
"Ever, always by My Spirit,
I will make you stand through everything.
You will call and I will answer,
for you, My child, live righteously.
I am very God within you,
manifesting grace and liberty!"



Biblical Foundations of the Recast Carols

Below are Bible passages I pondered in the months before writing this booklet. I pray Holy Spirit hides them in your heart as you ponder them, too. May He envelope you in that peace that comes with awareness of His abiding presence.

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Memory Cues</i>
Isaiah 26:3	[1] Peace
Hebrews 13:5	never fails
Isaiah 30:15	to return
Psalms 91	to the secret place.
II Chronicles 15:2	[2] You will find Him
Philippians 4	as you rejoice
Psalms 103	and praise Him.
Lamentations 3:25-26	[3] God is good,
Genesis 28:15	He is near, so
Psalms 27:14	I can wait
Isaiah 41:10	and not fear!

I find the Amplified Classic Bible a great help when pondering Scripture. It is like a teacher explaining what key words in a passage really mean. The words in parentheses and brackets give subtle shades of meaning that people in Bible times would have understood as a matter of course.

I also find it helpful to look up passages in other translations, like the King James, New International and New Living Bible.

If you do not have a habit of meditating on Scripture, please start! You will be blessed beyond all you can imagine!

