

The moon shines bright

Traditional, arranged by Cecil J Sharp (1859-1924)

Is it a carol or not? This song was collected from Tysoe, Warwickshire, and was said to be a favourite with the Tysoe carol singers.

It ends with a New Year greeting, so perhaps was intended to provoke some spiritual soul searching in preparation for the coming year.

The remaining subject matter, though, is more suited to Easter. The author and composer are unknown; several variants are available.

For more traditional folk music, please see the extensive collection at The Sheet Music Stack.



*Version: Lead sheet - melody with chords
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Traditional, arranged by Cecil J Sharp (1859-1924)

1. The moon shines bright and the stars give a light A little before it is day; Our Lord our God he called on us And bids us awake and pray. 2. Awake! O awake! Good people all, Awake and you shall hear; Our Lord our God, He suffered on the cross, For us whom he loved so dear. 3. The Year.

*The moon shines bright and the stars
give a light
A little before it is day;
The Lord our God, he called on us
And bids us awake and pray.*

*Awake! O awake! Good people all,
Awake and you shall hear
Our Lord our God, he suffered on the
cross
For us whom he loved so dear.*

*The fields were green, as green could be,
When we from his glory fell;
And we his children then were brought
To death and near to hell.*

*The life of man, it is but a span,
It's like a morning flower;
We're here today, tomorrow we are gone,
We are dead all in one hour.*

*O teach them well your children, dear man,
While you have got them here;
It will be better for your soul, dear man,
When your corpse lies on the bier.*

*Today you may be living, dear man,
With many a thousand pound;
Tomorrow you may be dead, dear man,
And your corpse lie underground.*

*With the green turf at your head,
dear man,
And another at your feet;
Your good deeds and your bad, dear man,
Will all together meet.*

*My song is done and I must be gone,
No longer can I stay here.
God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a happy new year.*