In The Bleak MidWinter

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1872, alt.
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1. In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
2. Our God, Heav'n can not hold Him, nor earth sustain;
3. Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
4. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
5. What can I give Him, poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign;
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay; En-
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Ox and ass and camel which adore.
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
Yet what can I give Him: give my heart.

These lyrics are rather obscure, though quite beautiful. The earth (which represents all of God’s promises to His People, Gen 13:14-15, Rom 4:13-17, Mt 5:5) and the water (which represents Baptism and forgiveness, Jn 3:5, Eph 5:25-27, 1Pt 3:21) are frozen and lifeless as the Law reigns alone (2Cor 3:6b), with no grace flowing before Christ. The Spirit (the wind) works in the world through the condemnation of the Law and the hope for redemption to come (frosty wind made moan, Micah 4:10, Ez 21:6-7). Then Christ humbly comes to melt the icy world in grace. This then inspires those saved, who recognize that they have nothing to give to Him, to finally, through His grace, fulfill the greatest commandment (Mt 22:37).

Irregular