

Before the Paling of the Stars

Words Christina Rossetti, melody Maddy Taylor

Before the paling of the stars
Before the winter morn
Before the earliest cock crow
Jesus Christ was born
Born in a stable
Cradled in a manger
In the world his hands had made
Born a stranger

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem
Saint and angel, ox and ass
Kept a watch together
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather

Jesus on his mother's breast
In the stable cold
Spotless lamb of God was he
Shepherd of the fold
Let us kneel with Mary maid
A Virgin decked in glory
With saint and angel, ox and ass
To hail the Christmas story