

COVID CHRISTMAS 2020 by Keith Rowbottom

It's been a strange year, and Christmas even stranger
No festive bazaars, nativity plays or gathering round the manger
Here I am, all on my own, locked down in tier four
No gathering with family or friends as in years before
Yet this is what the prophet said, it's what he did foretell -
That you would come, and be with me, Emmanuel
Emmanuel, God with us, that's what the gospel-writer also said
The little babe was called who's lying in the manger bed.

Hark! The herald angels sing, but on their own this year
As singing is forbidden in our church, I fear.
All we can do is just a bit of humming;
20-20 vision, we didn't see that coming!
Silent night. Silent alright!
Yet in the quiet, as peace the fears dispel,
You come to me, to be with me, Emmanuel.
Emmanuel, God with us, that's what the gospel-writer also said
The little babe was called who's lying in the manger bed.

It matters not which tier I'm in, it's tears that fill my eyes,
With sadness for the loved one who gets the virus and then dies.
Bereft, I long to know the warmth of a hug and kiss,
It's the nearness of a dear one that I truly miss.
But even as I think of them and say my last farewell,
'Abide with me', this is my plea, Emmanuel.
Emmanuel, God with us, that's what the gospel-writer also said
The little babe was called who's lying in the manger bed.

It is a bleak mid-winter for the future's looking bleak,
My job is gone and there seems to be no prospects of which to speak.
Income's tight, food is scarce, and presents they are few,
Life is so uncertain; I just don't know what I can do.
But in the darkness shineth a light into this hell,
For you are here, you bring good cheer, Emmanuel.
Emmanuel, God with us, that's what the gospel-writer also said
The little babe was called who's lying in the manger bed.

It's been said that Christmas is cancelled, but surely that can't be true,
OK it's very different, but they cannot cancel You.
Despite everything that's happened, and things just aren't the same,
The truth is that your birth took place and to the earth you came.
So in the midst of this pandemic let's hear the angel sing "Noel"
For you have come to us, you are here with us, Emmanuel.
Emmanuel, God with us, that's what the gospel-writer also said
The little babe was called who's lying in the manger bed.