

When All the World's Asleep

S.A.T.B., a cappella



The text refers to an old Irish custom in which each household would leave a lighted candle in their window on Christmas night in the belief that Joseph, Mary and Jesus still wandered the roads of the world, looking for a place to rest from the persecution of Herod.

Sigerson Clifford
The Kerry Christmas Carol

John Milne

Larghetto ♩ = 114

SOPRANO
ALTO

mf 1 2 3 4 for_

Brush the floor and clean_ the hearth, and set the fire_ to keep,___

TENOR
BASS

mf

Brush the floor and clean_ the hearth, and set the fire_ to keep,___

5 6 7 8 *mp*

they might vis - it us to-night, when all the world's a - sleep. ___

mp (Bass) *mf* 7

they might vis - it us to-night, when all the world's a - sleep. ___ Don't

9 *mp* 10 *mf* 11 12 7

Ah_ but leave_ it burn - ing bright, ___ So

blow the tall_ white can - dle out, but leave it burn - ing bright, ___

P1587

Text by Sigerson Clifford ("The Kerry Christmas Carol"). From *Ballads of a Bogman*

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Ooh _____

13 *mp* 14 *mf* 15 16

they will know they're wel - come here, this ho - ly Christ - mas night. _____

Ooh _____

(Tenor) *mp* *mf*

this ho - ly Christ - mas night. _____ For

A

17 18 *mf* 19 20 *mp*

and Mar - y pale and wan and ah, and

Jo - seph will be trav - el-tired and

21 *mp* 22 23 24 *mf*

they can sleep a lit - tle while, be - fore they jour - ney on. They

they can sleep a lit - tle while be - fore they jour - ney on.

they can sleep a lit - tle while, be - fore they jour - ney on. They

B

25 26 27 28 *mp*

will be wear - y of the road and rest will com - fort them. For it

will be wear - y of the road and rest will com - fort, com-fort them. For it

must be man - y a lone - ly mile from here to Beth - le - hem. O

Ah lone - ly mile to Beth - le - hem. O

mp Ah lone - ly mile to Beth - le - hem. O

must be man - y lone - ly mile O

f

f

long the road they have to go, the bad mile with the good, 'til the

long the road they have to go, the bad mile with the good,

p

p

D

molto rall.

jour - ney ends on Cal - va - ry, be - neath a cross of wood.

Ooh be - neath a cross of wood. Ah

mp Ooh be - neath a cross of wood. Ah

p

p

a tempo, slightly slower

ff

41 So leave the door up - on the latch,* and set the fire to
neath the cross.

ff

41 So leave the door up - on the latch,* and set the fire to

poco rit.

E

and pray they'll rest with us to - night when

45 keep, Ooh with us to - night when

45 keep, Ooh with us to - night when

a tempo

molto rit.

48 all the world's a - sleep

48 all the world's a - sleep

* door upon the latch means shut but not locked



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