

17 December 2017 Lessons and Carols

*Come Christmas,
in a barn, a shed,
a basement, a box, a cell,
a tunnel, a trench,
behind a razor wire fence
on a deck, a backwater, a bench, a church step,
amid the ruins of terror,
the cries of anguish,
in a hospital tent,
beneath a star, round a tree, outside the expected,
from the debris of a shattered dream,
we witness our divinity,
Love Irrepressible
Wellspring of Surprise
being born of our humanity time and time again.*
Writes Australian poet, Noel Davis.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, in our very humanity, God-with-us. That is the message of Christmas. God knows, God understands, God loves you!

About his poem, Noel Davis writes:

‘These are words of hope. Love finds a way no matter what! Things may be dark, fearful, seemingly impossible but in trust, love finds a way.

Ever seen grass sprouting, pushing through bitumen, eucalypts growing out of rocks. Nature is irrepressible. It finds a way. It is a poem of hope.

No matter the situation, love will prevail.

The Spirit will prevail. It is a way to live.

We know this from our experiences with the marginalised and mentally ill of the inner city.

We reveal our true inner beauty at the height of our vulnerability.

We are out of control.

Paradox. Jesus born in a stable !!! Asleep in a cardboard box !!!!

No matter how hard we may resist the love within, each of our hearts will never give up on us.

Noel's poem called 'The Spirit's Bloody Sheep dog' says it:
'The bugger won't leave me alone
and the Spirit won't call him off
until I take in trust the unknown track I know to be my truth.'¹

Michael Leunig puts it this way:

*Love is born
With a dark and troubled face
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born:
Love is always born.*

Let us pray:

Among refugees and outcasts
you breathed your first breaths.
In the cry of a new born child you proclaimed
Emanuel, God-with-us.
Come, God of the margins,
breathe into us the spirit of longing for your way.
Come, make us
dream of and work for
a better world of justice and freedom.
Come, Lord, come.
Amen²

Play:

Come Christmas (Davis/Coleman)

Come Christmas - in a barn
Come Christmas – in a shed
A basement a box - a cell heavy locks
A tunnel - a trench - razor wire
Heavy fire

¹ 'The Spirit 's Bloody Sheep Dog' in 'Campfire of the Heart' Noel Davis

² page 34 *wild goose big book of liturgies* Iona Community

Come Christmas – on a bench
Come Christmas – a hospital tent
Beneath the star – outside a bar
Behind a tree by the river
You are delivered

Come Christmas – across the sea
Come Christmas – where have you been?
O come little light – you swell up so bright
Lift up the hearts of the mothers
And every lover

Love irrepressible burst through the black
Kaleidoscopic flowers grow where burning bridges crack
Wonderful dawning – child of the morning
Our holy family has delivered
We've crossed the river

Love irrepressible - wellspring of light
Come now - illuminate this dark
Wonderful dawning – child of the morning
Our holy family has delivered
We've crossed the river
Come Christmas ... come Christmas
Come Christmas ... come Christmas

from "Love Irrepressible" – Noel Davis
From the Wilds of the Heart 2003 p81
from [Shade Tree Place](#), John Coleman, released September 30,
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Susanna