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**Christmas Dawn**

**T**IS Christmas morn! 'Tis Christmas morn!  
 O! hear the silvery bells!  
 How softly rare upon the air  
 Their mellow chiming swells!  
 Behold the skies whose million eyes  
 Through silent spaces peer,  
 Like brilliant gems, fair diadems  
 High set in vesper sphere.

**L**ET us be merry and happy and gay,  
 And welcome the Prince with a sweet virelay;  
 We'll garner the holly and ever be jolly,  
 For blessed is He Who is coming today.  
 The bells we'll ring, to bliss we'll cling,  
 Our myrrh we'll bring to greet the King,  
 For blessed is He Who is coming today;  
 Cheerily chant Him a sweet roundelay,  
 Merrily, merrily, merrily!

**T**IS Christmas morn! 'Tis Christmas morn!  
 How swift the hours fly!  
 And winged-foot on magic feet  
 They vanish like a sigh;  
 Now dreamy-dim o'er Orient rim  
 The gold-fringed eyes of morn  
 Shed loving light on drowsy night  
 Ere yet the day is born.  
 Now gleams the star whose beams afar  
 Weave Heaven's silver hem.  
 How dove-demure, how seraph-pure,  
 Bright Star of Bethlehem!

**T**HEN let us be peaceful and joyous and gay,  
 And welcome the Prince with a sweet virelay;  
 We'll garner the holly and ever be jolly,  
 For blessed is He Who is coming today.  
 The bells we'll ring to prayer we'll cling,  
 Our incense bring to praise the King,  
 For blessed is He Who is coming today;  
 Soulfully sing Him a sweet roundelay,  
 Merrily, merrily, merrily!

—Clare Gerald Fenerty

**Christmas Joy**

**S**UZANNE! Please!"  
 "I won't do it!" Suzanne said  
 very promptly.  
 "But you don't know what 'it'  
 is," Nancy objected.  
 "Granted. But I haven't  
 known you intimately from the  
 age of five years and seven months  
 without learning the implications of  
 your voice. I repeat it: I will—not  
 do—it!"  
 Nancy's pretty eyes darkened. "Oh,  
 Suzanne dear, if you knew how much I  
 want it! You just couldn't refuse me!  
 You couldn't! It would make me hap-  
 pier than anything I could think of."  
 "I suppose I can let you tell me,"  
 said Suzanne relenting, "although I  
 warn you that I know you're just 'get-  
 ting round me' and I'd be much wiser  
 to hold to my original position."  
 "Nancy's face flashed into radiance.  
 Nancy, happy, was always irresistible.  
 "You will be good and sweet and big  
 and generous and let me have my way!  
 Oh, I knew you would! It's about  
 Christmas, Suzanne. You see, while  
 your father has been piling up a for-  
 tune my dear dad has been having  
 hard times, and we are all having to  
 be very careful. It isn't anything  
 dreadful, you know, so long as we  
 have one another and the home; but  
 there isn't much margin for extras. So  
 I can give only a tiny little gift—it  
 cost me exactly 49 cents in money—  
 and please, please, Suzanne, be  
 good and do the same to me! You  
 know it's you I love; not the lovely  
 gifts you shower upon me. Christmas  
 isn't money; it's loving."  
 Suzanne put her hands on Nancy's  
 shoulders and looked down into the  
 pleading eyes.  
 "I can use your argument, too," she  
 answered. "If Christmas is loving, not  
 gifts—and you know I agree with all  
 my heart—then why are you making it  
 a thing of even exchange in dollars  
 and cents? Are you doing it for my  
 sake?"  
 "N-no," Nancy faltered. "Only—"  
 "You know the money is nothing to

me—that the only joy I can get from it  
 is to use it to grant the little wishes  
 that those I love have wished, or for  
 things that I know they'd love even if  
 they haven't actually wished them.  
 Would you rob me of that, dear? Is it  
 fair—when it's Christmas? If you hap-  
 pened to have the money instead of  
 me, would you want to have the one  
 joy of it taken from you?"  
 For a long, long moment Nancy was  
 silent. Then she looked up with a  
 bright smile.  
 "I surrender, Suzanne," she said.  
 It was an exquisite gift that shone  
 up at her from the little white box  
 Christmas morning—a pink tourmal-  
 ine pendant set with pearls. Beneath  
 was Suzanne's card:  
 "I bought it long ago because it  
 looked so like you, Nancy dear. But  
 it is you who are giving me the real  
 gift—the joy of sending you this."  
 Nancy lifted it to the light. It was  
 the loveliest thing she had ever had,  
 but the heart of the joy was that it  
 meant joy to Suzanne, too.—Youth's  
 Companion.

**Merry Old St. Nick**



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