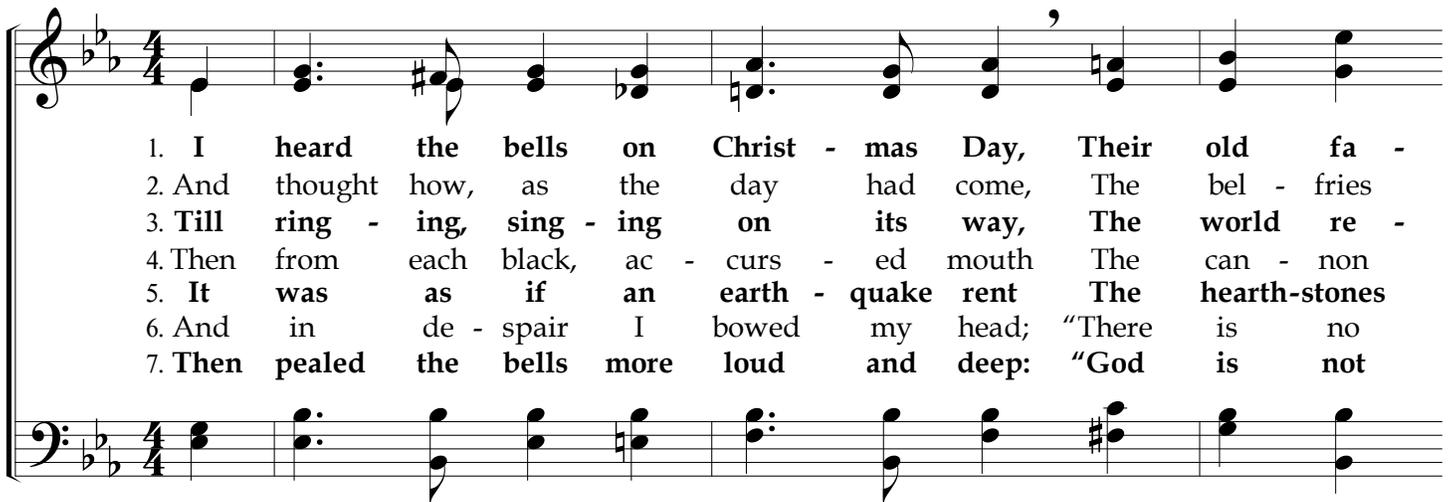


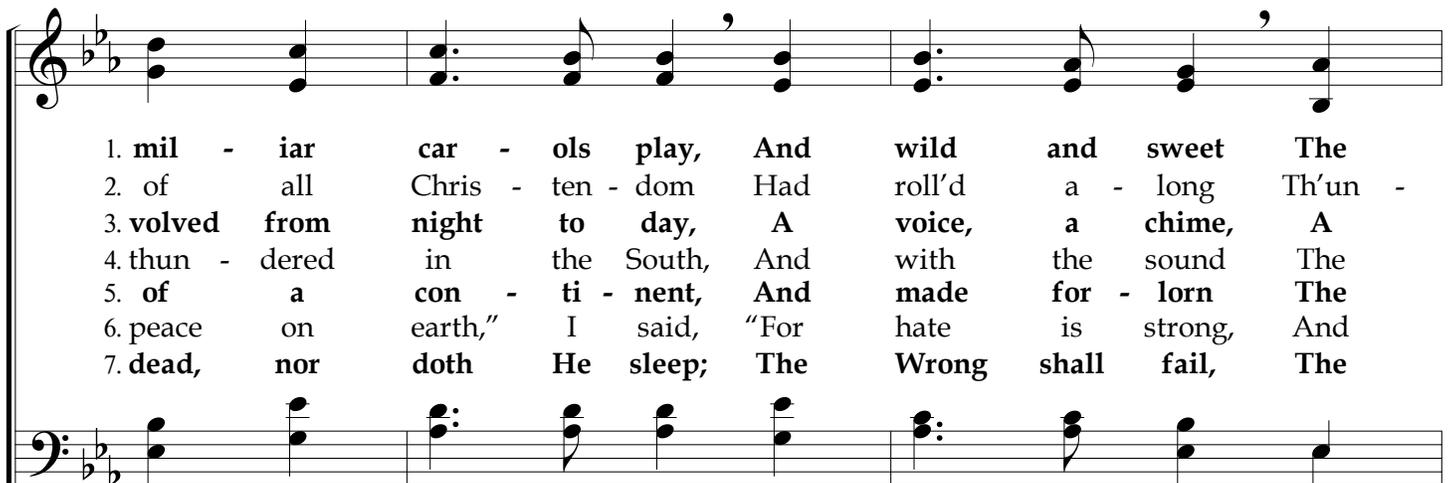
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
1863

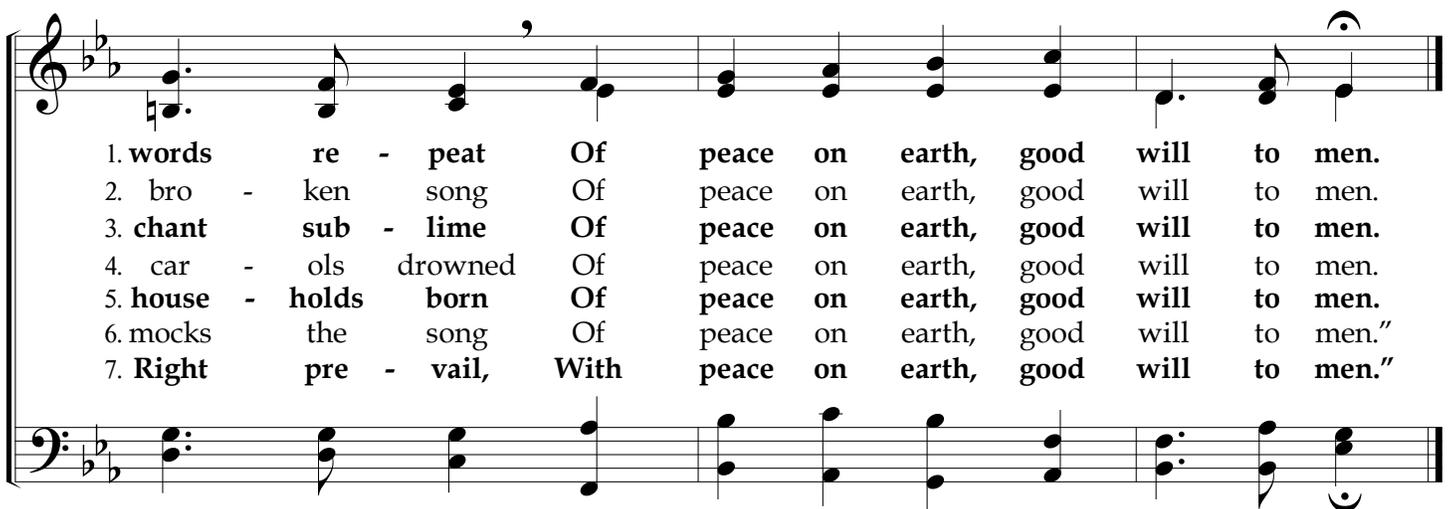
To the tune of "Waltham", by John Baptiste Calkin
1872



1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas Day, Their old fa -
2. And thought how, as the day had come, The bel - fries
3. Till ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The world re -
4. Then from each black, ac - curs - ed mouth The can - non
5. It was as if an earth - quake rent The hearth-stones
6. And in de - spair I bowed my head; "There is no
7. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not



1. mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet The
2. of all Chris - ten - dom Had roll'd a - long Th'un -
3. volved from night to day, A voice, a chime, A
4. thun - dered in the South, And with the sound The
5. of a con - ti - nent, And made for - lorn The
6. peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, And
7. dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The



1. words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
2. bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
3. chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good will to men.
4. car - ols drowned Of peace on earth, good will to men.
5. house - holds born Of peace on earth, good will to men.
6. mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
7. Right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

Within months of the dawn of the American Civil War, Wadworth's wife had died in a fire and was buried on the 18th anniversary of their marriage. Thereafter, each holiday was without cheer. Then, against his wishes, his eldest son Charles went off to war and at the Christmas of 1863, was fighting for his life after having been wounded in combat. In a most melancholy state, he heard the peel of Christmas bells, and he was reminded of the glad tidings of Christ, leading him to pen this most beautiful poem.