

# THE JESUS STORY

A MUSICAL JOURNEY  
INTO THE LIFE OF CHRIST

BY RICHARD RICE-OXLEY

NARRATION AND  
WORDS OF SONGS



*Jesus was born a Jew, a member of an oppressed people. At that time Rome ruled the world, and the Jews were part of the Roman Empire. But they hadn't lost hope that one day someone would come to set them free. A new day would dawn – Dayspring*

## **1 Dayspring**

*Dayspring, lighting up the sky; Dayspring, lifting spirits high;  
Dayspring, God is with us at last.*

Those whose lives are full of gloom, Those whose hearts are sad,  
Those who feel a sense of doom, He has made glad – by *Dayspring*...

To those whose eyes are full of tears, Those who suffer wrong,  
Those whose crying no-one hears, He has brought a song – of *Dayspring*...

To those who walk a lonely road, Those who wish their life would end,  
Those who bear a heavy load, He comes as their friend – with *Dayspring*...

*Jesus was born at Christmas. Our singing of Christmas carols enhances the goodwill and joy of this special time. Some are lullabies to the new babe of Bethlehem. Others help us to understand something of the meaning of his birth.*

## **2 Come and Worship**

*Come and worship, worship the Saviour,  
Jesus, Jesus, born at Bethlehem.*

See the angels thronging the heavens,  
Singing their songs of love to him.

See the shepherds gath'ring round his manger,  
Speaking their words of love to him.

See the wise men following the pointing star,  
Bringing their gifts of love to him.

## **3 Here is Love**

*Here is love coming down from heaven; here is joy in a human frame;  
Here is peace lying in a manger in Bethlehem, and Jesus is his name.*

Those who feel unloved now walk in darkness,  
Their faces taut and wearied with life's strain.  
They need to know God's heart is aching for them,  
They need to know that Jesus feels their pain.

Those who have no purpose walk in darkness,  
Rich or poor they wander without aim.  
They need to know God has a mission for them,  
To love him and all people just the same.

Those who know his grace now walk in daylight,  
The light that Jesus beams for all to see.  
They know God cares for them and all his children,  
His love and joy and peace have set them free.

*Jesus grew up as the son of Mary and Joseph, the carpenter. He was an adult when his baptism took place. Baptism or Christening marks the beginning of the Christian life and today children and adults are welcomed into the family of the Church when they are baptised. For Jesus, his baptism marked the beginning of his work of teaching and healing as the Son of God.*

## **4 The Baptism of Jesus**

*You are my Son, the beloved one; I am pleased with you.*

*Yes, you are my Son, the one I love; I delight in you.*

John baptised in the Jordan,  
people confessing their shame.  
He spoke of the coming of one who would  
baptise with the Spirit and flame.

Jesus came to the river;  
there he too was baptised.  
As he came up from the water  
the heav'ns were opened wide.

Jesus saw the Spirit  
coming down on him like a dove.  
He heard a voice from heaven  
speaking these words of love ...

*You are my Son, the beloved one; I am pleased with you.*

*Yes, you are my Son, the one I love; I delight in you.*

*Jesus was a man with a mission. But before his work began, he took time out to pray and work out his approach. In the wilderness he rejected the wrong path, suggested by the devil. Forty days without food is no joke, but at the end of his fast he knew the way he had to follow – the Way of Love.*

## **5 What Sort of Saviour?**

What sort of Saviour, what sort of Lord?

What does it mean to be Son of God?

How shall I save them, how seek the lost?

Must I face sacrifice, is there a cost?

Wine them and dine them, make them feel good;

People like plenty, plenty of food.

Make no demands of them, nothing too hard;

Soft-soap and sweet-meats, they're your best card.

Use your powers brilliantly, show off your skills,

Impress them with magic, excite them with thrills.

Miracles every day, wonders by night;

Megastar superman, you'll play it right.

Bow down and worship me, do it my way;

Remember they love me, they're under my sway.

You don't need to suffer, it's easy as pie;

With me in charge you'll be fine, no need to die.

Go away Satan and take your advice;

You speak of glory without sacrifice.

My task is freedom, true freedom for all.

Love is the way and the cross is my call.

*The Gospels give us much of the teaching of Jesus. The next song is based on a famous passage in the Gospels called the Beatitudes. These teachings were given by Christ and they point us to those whose lives show the blessing of God.*

## **6 The Beatitudes**

How blest are those whose spirits are open to God,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

How blest are those, those who are grieving, for they will be comforted.

How blest are those, those who are gentle,  
for they shall have the earth as their inheritance.

How blest are those who long for righteousness,  
for they shall have their longings satisfied.

How blest are those, those who are merciful,  
for they shall have mercy shown to them.

How blest are those, those whose hearts are pure,  
for they shall see God, their Father.

How blest are those, those who are peacemakers,  
for they shall be called true children of God.

How blest are those who are harried for their righteousness,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

How blest are those whose spirits are open to God,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

*Jesus often used stories, called parables, to get across his message. Some of them are very funny, with pictures from everyday life. Others, we find more difficult to understand because Jesus was trying to make his listeners think. The next song is based on the parable of The Lost Son, known to many of us as The Prodigal Son. In this story we see loving parents who long for the return of their wilful, selfish child. Jesus is showing us a picture of a caring and loving God, who offers forgiveness to his children.*

## **7 The Prodigal Son**

Hoping, praying, longing – for my son I yearn;  
Watching, waiting, wondering – when will he return?

Years ago my Reuben came to me and said:  
“I want what’s mine and straight away; I can’t wait till you’re dead.”

He left the farm soon afterwards, and walked out of our lives.  
We’ve had no news of him since then; don’t know if he survives.

But who is this coming down the road, dejected, weak and ill?  
It’s Reuben! I will run to him and show I love him still.

“In wasting all you gave to me, my deeds have done you harm.  
I am not fit to be your son; employ me on your farm.”

Forget the past, I am overjoyed, I forgive you everything.  
We'll get new shoes for your feet, and for your hand a ring.  
We will have a feast, a welcome home; my longing's satisfied.  
My son has come back from the dead, he lives, he's at my side.  
Hoping, praying, longing – for my son I yearned.  
Watching and waiting are over, for now he has returned.

*The extraordinary spiritual power of Jesus was demonstrated by his miracles. The next song paints a musical picture of Jesus calming a storm on Lake Galilee. Then we have a song about the healing of ten men who had leprosy. Ten were cured, but only one came back to say 'thank you'.*

## **8 The Sea of Galilee**

A boat is gliding, swiftly sliding  
Through waters gleaming from bright sun's beaming,  
On the sea, the sea of Galilee.

The men are rowing, the boat keeps going.  
Their master sleeping, a watch they're keeping  
On the sea, the sea of Galilee.

But now the wind is rising, and the sky is darkening, and the waves are heaving  
On the sea, the sea of Galilee.

"Save us, Lord, for we are lost; by this tempest we are tossed.  
Save us, save us, we are lost; by this tempest we are tossed  
On the sea, the sea of Galilee."

Up sprang Jesus from his bed. "Peace, be still" is what he said.  
Wind and waves and storm all fled. ...

*Repeat verse 1.*

## 9 The Healing of Ten Men

Ten men moaning, ten men groaning,  
Ten men cut off from society,  
Ten men sighing, ten men crying,  
“Jesus, master, set us free.”

Jesus caring, Jesus sharing  
Words that will banish their misery:  
“Show yourselves to the priests; you’ll soon join the feasts,  
Rejoicing in your cure from leprosy.”

Ten men dancing, ten men prancing,  
Ten men savouring their liberty.  
A Samaritan returning, his heart now burning,  
Filled with joy and ecstasy.

“Thank God for the healing, the sign revealing  
The love of the Lord for my friends and me.”

“But where are the nine? Surely ten are now fine.  
Go in peace, your faith has set you free.”

*After three years of teaching, preaching and healing, Jesus came to the capital, Jerusalem. His popularity and his fame had grown over the years, and he was given a rapturous welcome by the people. He chose to enter the city humbly on a donkey to show that, although he was a king, he didn’t need a warhorse and an army. He came in peace. The crowd shouted ‘Hosanna’.*

## 10 Hosanna

*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Riding on a donkey into Jerusalem, Jesus came,  
A humble king on a gentle beast, Prince of Peace is his name.

The people thronged to see their king: it was a joyful meeting.  
They cut down branches from the trees and laid them before him in greeting.

“Stop this noise!” some Pharisees said; “The rule of Rome they’re flouting.”  
“If they don’t speak,” the Lord replied, “even the stones will start shouting.”

*The ministry of Jesus was hugely popular with ordinary people. But many of the religious leaders took offence at it. For one thing, Jesus associated freely with people whom they considered to be unacceptable, such as prostitutes, and tax collectors for the hated Romans. And he was scathing in his criticism of their spiritual leadership. He also made spiritual claims for himself which outraged them – for example, to have authority to forgive sins and to add to the law of Moses. Finally, by riding into Jerusalem and accepting the applause of the crowd, he was claiming to be the long-awaited King of the Jews. This claim they saw as blasphemous and politically dangerous. Jesus had to go!*

*Jesus came to Jerusalem knowing that he was going to be killed. He also knew that his death would carry a huge spiritual importance. It was the time of the Passover Festival when the Jewish people remembered their miraculous escape from slavery in Egypt. Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, but gave it new meaning by linking it with his imminent death on the cross.*

## **11 The Last Supper**

It was on the Passover evening that Jesus gathered his friends.

“Come and celebrate this festival before our journey ends.

We’ll remember God’s rescue of Israel, the sacred story repeat;

We’ll partake of the lamb that is sacrificed, as in fellowship we meet.”

While they shared this meal together, Jesus took up the bread:

He gave thanks to God and broke it, then gave it to them and said:

“This bread is my body, my body given for you.

Do this to remember me, and show that your love is true.”

Then Jesus took up the cup of wine and gave thanks as before:

“This is my blood which is shed for all to open the door,

The door to a new relationship with God through forgiveness of sin.

Do this to remember me, and receive God’s cleansing within.”

2000 years have come and gone since Jesus passed out of sight.

Still his followers gather to remember that Passover night.

They eat the bread and drink the wine, his body and blood to share.

They are fed by the living Saviour, and they meet him there.



*During the Last Supper, Jesus spent time reassuring his disciples that despite his death and physical departure from them, he would leave them his presence through the Holy Spirit.*

## **12 Peace**

My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives give I unto you.

Peace from the Father, peace in your soul,

Peace deep within you, making you whole.

My love I leave with you, my love I give to you.

Not as the world gives give I unto you.

Love from the Father, love in your soul,

Love deep within you, making you whole.

My joy I leave with you, my joy I give to you.

Not as the world gives give I unto you.

Joy from the Father, joy in your soul,

Joy deep within you, making you whole.

*Repeat verse 1.*

*When supper was ended, Jesus took Peter, James and John to an olive grove called Gethsemane. Knowing the awful death that awaited him, Jesus suffered a time of agonising prayer. Our next song portrays the loneliness of Jesus as he comes to terms with what he has to do. It was shortly after this that he was betrayed by Judas's kiss.*

## **13 The Moon Shines**

The moon shines in the night; the olive trees catch the light.

God's Son is praying to his Father in heaven. Strange terrible sight ...

"Must, must it be so? Is there no other way to go?

Must I suffer the pain and the torture, the nails, the cruel hammer's blow?

"Yes, this is the way. You speak, and I obey –

For only so can our people be rescued, their sin all taken away."

The moon shines in the night; the olive trees catch the light.

God's Son has answered his Father in heaven. Strange wonderful sight ...

*Jesus was arrested and taken to the High Priest's house. All the disciples deserted him, but Peter and John followed and gained access to the High Priest's courtyard. Peter had boasted that he would never deny his Lord, but Jesus had predicted that before a cock crowed Peter would deny him three times.*

## **14 Peter's Denial**

When Jesus was arrested, Peter fled into the night;  
He followed at a distance, keeping out of sight.  
He came to the High Priest's courtyard  
And when he went inside someone recognised him;  
Too late to run and hide.  
“You were with that upstart when he walked the land;  
You were his companion, one of his chosen band.”

*I do not know the man; I've never met him.  
If I had met the man, could I forget him?*

Another person looked at him and they said just the same:  
“Surely you were with him, surely you know his name.”

*I do not know the man; I've never met him.  
If I had met the man, could I forget him?*

“Yes, you were travelling with him. It's as clear as day  
you're from the north from Galilee, your speech gives you away.”

*I do not know the man; I've never met him.  
If I had met the man, could I forget him?*

This third time Peter was accused, a third time he denied.  
Then a cock crew, Christ's words came true. Peter went out and cried:

*Of course I know the man; of course I've met him.  
He just looked straight at me; could I forget him?*

*Jesus was put on trial before the religious leaders. The High Priest asked him if he was the Messiah, the Son of God. When Jesus said, 'I am', the whole Council condemned him to death. As they did not have the authority to execute the sentence, they brought him to Pilate, the Roman Governor. They accused Jesus of being a threat to Roman rule. Pilate was not convinced, but, swayed by the crowd, agreed that the death sentence should be carried out. Jesus was to be crucified.*

*The next song imagines someone looking at Jesus on the cross and thinking 'What a waste'.  
The third verse, sung here as a duet, gives the reply of Jesus.*

## **15 Lord, ... Why?**

Lord, look at your head, gashed by sharp cruel thorn.

Lord, look at your face, bruised, weary and worn.

Lord, look at your hands, pierced, bleeding and torn.

Lord, what have they done? Why were you ever born?

Lord, look at your body, racked by searing pain.

Lord, look at your mind, battered and feeling the strain.

Lord, look at your soul, polluted with sin's filthy stain.

Lord, what have they done? Was all your loving in vain?

Child, yours was the pain I suffered on Calvary;

Yours the torment of mind I went through on that lonely tree;

Yours, yours was the sin, the sin that blotted out me.

But take heart, my child, this was how I set you free!

Yes, take heart, my child, this was how I set you free!

*Everybody thought that Good Friday was the end of Jesus. But on the following Sunday  
something wonderful happened: God raised Jesus from the dead. God has spoken, death is  
broken – Christ has woken, strong to save!*

## **16 Hallelujah!**

*Hallelujah! ...*

God has spoken, death is broken, Christ has woken from the grave.

God has spoken, death is broken, Christ has woken, strong to save.

*Hallelujah! ...*

Christ is risen from his prison, Christ is risen from the grave.

Christ is risen from his prison, Christ is risen, strong to save.

*Hallelujah! ...*

Sing and shout now, tell it out now, Sing and shout now, Jesus is Lord.

Sing and shout now, tell it out now, Sing and shout now, Jesus is Lord.

*Hallelujah! ...*

*The song “We See Christ” reflects on key aspects of the life, death, resurrection and uniqueness of Christ. It invites us to see his living, loving presence as we ourselves journey through life.*

## **17 We See Christ**

As he walks the dusty road, As he shares life’s heavy load,  
As the seeds of hope are sowed, We see Christ, the human one.

Through the cruel crown of thorns, Through the bitter shame and scorn,  
Through the weight of our sin borne, We see Christ, the crucified one.

In his bursting from the tomb, In his greeting in the locked room,  
In his dispelling of all gloom, We see Christ, the risen one.

Beyond the turn of history’s page, Beyond philosopher and sage,  
Beyond the great of every age, We see Christ, the living one.

*Christians believe that Jesus Christ has rescued us from the power of sin and promised to be with us always. He still feeds the hungry and heals the lame through those who follow his example.*

## **18 Follow, Follow, Follow**

*Follow, follow, follow where the Master leads.*

*Follow as he goes out meeting human needs.*

*See him feed the hungry; see him heal the lame,*

*See him share the good news; then go and do the same.*

Peter by the lakeside heard the Master’s plea:

“Leave your boats and fishes and come and follow me.

You’ll join a band of brothers and I’ll be at your head;

From now on, no more fishing; no, you’ll catch folk instead.

Peter followed Jesus wherever Jesus went;

He walked with him and talked with him, saw how his life was spent;

He saw the cross on Calvary; he saw the empty grave;

Then out he went to share the news: it’s Jesus Christ who saves.

Today as in past ages the Master’s still the same;

He calls us to follow and go out in his name:

Some in our own country, and some in lands afar.

We all can go for Jesus wherever we are.