

THE CHRISTMAS CANTICLES

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The Christmas canticles by George Elliot

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GEORGE ELLIOT

**THE CHRISTMAS
CANTICLES**



THE CHRISTMAS CANTICLES

By
GEORGE ELLIOTT

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

—*Christina Rossetti.*



THE ABINGDON PRESS
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

TO MY WIFE AND CHILDREN

IN MEMORY OF

OUR MANY CHRISTMASES

WHICH HAVE REVEALED TO ME THE
CHRISTIAN HOME AS THE HOLY FAMILY;
ALL MOTHERHOOD AS SACRED AND
EVERY CHILD AS "THAT HOLY THING."

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A Prelude	7
I. The Canticles of the Incarna- tion	9
II. The Virgin Mother—the First New Testament Singer	16
III. The <i>Magnificat</i> —the Madrigal of Mary	32
IV. The Silenced Priest—the Sec- ond Singer	48
V. The <i>Benedictus</i> —the Hymn of the Gospel Dawn	54
VI. The Day-Spring from on High .	61
VII. The Angel's Sermon Before the Angelic Anthem	70
VIII. "Good Tidings of Great Joy" .	78
IX. <i>Gloria in Excelsis</i>	83
X. Naming the Child—a New Year's Meditation	96
XI. The Prophetic Prince of the Four Names	105

CONTENTS

	PAGE
XII. The Sages, the Star and the Saviour	112
XIII. The King and the Kings—an Epiphany Meditation	117
XIV. <i>Nunc Dimittis</i> —the Swan-Song of a Saint	123
XV. The Blessed Boyhood of Jesus .	133
A Postlude	139

A PRELUDE

"There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!"

THE Psalter has been called "the hymn-book of all the ages." Its poetry is set to music. It is made to be sung. As Carlyle says, all poetry is "musical thought." To this collection of sacred lyrics, begun by David and not completed until after the exile in which Hebrew harps were hung on the willows beside the Babylonian stream, the New Testament adds another group of Messianic psalms, recorded by Luke in his beautiful story of the Advent of the Christ.

Whenever heaven touches earth and God and man come together, the celestial harmonies take the sounds of this world, clothe their disorder with rhythm, arrange their jangling sequences into melody, and blend their harsh dissonances into euphony. Christmas lends a new splendor to the stars and a new sweetness to song.