

Here we come a-wassailing (Wassail Song)

(Christmas; New Year)

English traditional
(Bramley and Stainer, 1871, arr. editors)

VERSE

1. Here we come a - was - sail - ing A - mong the leaves so
2. Our was - sail cup is made Of the rose - ma - ry

4

green; 7 Here we come a - wan - der - ing, So fair to be
tree, And so is your beer Of the best bar

8 [J. = J] REFRAIN

seen. Love and joy come to you, And to you your was - sail
- ley.

12

too, And God bless you, and send you a hap - py new

16

year, And God send you a hap - py new year.

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The tex
His son
pamphl
believed
wassail

3 We are not daily beggars
That beg from door to door,
But we are neighbours' children
Whom you have seen before.

4 Call up the butler of this house,
Put on his golden ring;
Let him bring us up a glass of beer,
And better we shall sing.

5 We have got a little purse,
Of stretching leather skin;
We want a little of your money
To line it well within.

6 Bring us out a table,
And spread it with a cloth;
Bring us out some mouldy cheese,¹
And some of your Christmas loaf.

7 God bless the master of this house,
Likewise the mistress too,
And all the little children
That round the table go.

8 Good master and good mistress,
While you're sitting by the fire,
Pray think of us poor children
Who are wandering in the mire.

English traditional
(Husk, 1864)

¹ blue cheese

The text is from W. H. Husk's *Songs of the Nativity* (1864). His sources included a Manchester chap-book (popular pamphlet) and a Bradford broadside of c.1850, and he believed that the carol was a recent conflation by northern wassailers. The tune here (NOBC tune II) is as given in

Bramley and Stainer's *Christmas Carols, New and Old* (1871), and was from Yorkshire. (So was NOBC tune I, not included here, which was sung in Leeds in the 1850s.)

PERFORMANCE Voice(s), with refrain in unison or harmony.

ditional
editors)



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