

Christmas Is Coming

English traditional, charitable lyrics nursery rhyme! Often sung with a round thrown in.
Sing along with The Laurie Berkner Band @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvPgaXmQm7c>

A
Christmas is coming,

A
Goose is getting fat!

A *E* *A*
Please put a penny in the old man's hat!

A
If you haven't got a penny, a ha' penny will do!

A *D* *E* *A*
If you haven't got a ha' penny, then God bless you!



TWO
TIMES



TAG



A
Christmas is coming,

A
Candles on the tree!

A *E* *A*
Please hang a stocking for St Nick to see!

A
If you haven't got a stocking, a little sock will do!

A *D* *E* *A*
If you haven't got a little sock, then God bless you!

A
Christmas is coming,

A
Season of good cheer!

A *E* *A*
Let's sing a carol for the brand new year!

A
If you haven't got a carol, a joyous song will do!

A *D* *E* *A*
If you haven't got a joyous song, then God bless you!

REPEAT VERSE 1 AS AN A CAPPELLA ROUND

History and Purpose

The author of the "Christmas Is A-Coming" lyrics is unknown. The poetry of the song associate the Christmas feast composed of traditional English Christmas fayre with charitable thoughts and activity.

British families typically kick off Christmas Day with a fulsome smoked salmon breakfast before ploughing through a further 21 separate food items (croissants, turkey with stuffing and other meat delicacies, roast potatoes, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, cabbage, asparagus, Yorkshire puddings, prawns, Christmas cake and puddings, mince pie, yule log, chocolate and other desserts), during the course of the day according to a One Poll survey done in 2014 with 2000 consumers. 86% of respondents said they believe they consume more food on Christmas Day than at any other time of the year, with another 84% admitting that the food and drink is the best thing about the Day.

This nursery rhyme was written to convey to children that although they might enjoy many luxuries in food and drink at Christmas time, the festive period was also a time that they should think of others and give to charity, according to their means...even if they could only give their blessing!

One tune for "Christmas Is A-Coming" was composed by Edith Nesbit Bland in the late nineteenth century with another by Henry Walford Davis (1869 – 1941).

Edith Nesbit Bland (1858 -1924) was better known for her novels *The Railway Children*, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* (1899), and *The Wouldbegoods* (1901). She published approximately 40 books for children, including novels, collections of stories, numerous plays, collections of verse, and picture books. Collaborating with others, she published almost as many more.

According to her biographer, Julia Briggs, Nesbit was "the first modern writer for children". Nesbit "helped to reverse the great tradition of children's literature inaugurated by Lewis Carrol, George MacDonald and Kenneth Grahame; turning away from their secondary worlds toward the tough truths to be won from encounters with things-as-they-are, previously the province of adult novels." Briggs also credits Nesbit with having invented the children's adventure story. Many subsequent writers, including P.L. Travers (author of *Mary Poppins*), Edward Eager, Diana Wynne Jones, J.K. Rowling, and C.S. Lewis credited Ms Nesbit Bland with influencing their work.



Edith Nesbit Bland
Photo from [Ignition Theatre](#)

powerfulwords.info, treasuryislands.wordpress.com, www.britannica.com, thegrocer.co.uk, Kevin White, December 8, 2014, carols.org.uk, and Wikipedia