

A Hymn for the Third Sunday of Advent

Good Joseph

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Suggested melody: *Kingsfold*

Theme: Remembering Joseph, often overlooked in the Christmas narrative

Last year, I was challenged by a friend to write a hymn based around Joseph, someone so often passed over with barely a mention in our reflections on the Christmas story. This is the result. Good Joseph, we salute you!

Good Joseph was a traveller, his journey hard and long,
from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the town where he belonged.
But down he went, with his betrothed, to do as he was bid.
For Joseph was a traveller when travelling was good.

Good Joseph was a watchful man ev'n though he'd been forewarned,
and stood in silent wonder there when Jesus Christ was born.
With human love he gave this child his nurture as he grew.
For Joseph was a watchful man when watchfulness was due.

Good Joseph was a refugee, escaping grief and pain,
to save God's son from Herod's rage as other boys were slain.
When dreams appeared, his mind was right; God's word he'd understand.
For Joseph was a refugee when refuge was at hand.

Good Joseph was a carpenter, with skills to teach and share.
He gave his all, with no reward, with faithfulness and care.
In Temple days he found his son was ready for the test.
Good Joseph was a carpenter when righteousness was best.

Good people, when you're called to serve and travel in God's way,
to watch and wait, in joy or pain, in work, or rest, or play,
in worship times, in family life ... do all that you can do,
and be as good as Joseph was – this servant-guide for you.