

43

wel - come thatch and lit - ter now be - low And joy was hers in the

46

mor - ning And joy was hers at the break of day And

49

then they heard the - an - gels tell Who were the first to

52

cry No - well? A - ni - mals all, as it be - fell All in the sta - ble where

56

they did dwell Joy shall be theirs in the mor - ning Joy shall be theirs at the

60

**rall.** . . . . .

break of day Joy shall be theirs in the mor - ning Joy shall be theirs now and ev - er - more

## The Carol of the Field-Mice



Tune/Arrangement, © Alan Murray, 2017

Lyrics, adapted very slightly from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows* (Chapter 5 - *Dulce Domum*).

This tune and arrangement © Alan Murray, 2017

I'll dedicate this one to my beloved Herken pals ... Glynis, Paul, Alison, Dave and Sue ... as well as the occasional Herkettes, Murray and David Cole, Sooz McCrae and David Gillespie. They all love Christmas, so hopefully we'll have a pop at this one over the soup and mulled fluids.

This was written on a warm day in August, 2017!

Love to all ...

PS - There is an old folk legend that, because the animals were there to look after BJ in the manger, God decreed that animals would be able to talk like humans every Christmas Day. John Kirkpatrick has a lot of fun with this idea in his silly-but-smart song "Carolling and Crumpets".

I wonder if Kenneth Grahame had it in mind for the last verse of this little beauty?

# The Carol of the Field-Mice

$\text{♩} = 35$  *With lots of rustic gusto*

Vil-lagers all, this fros ty tide, Come, let your doors swing o pen wide, Though

wind may fol- low, and snow be- side, Yet draw us in by your

fire to bide; Joy shall be yours in the mor-ning! Joy shall be yours at the

break of day Here we stand in the cold and sleet Blo - wing fin-gers and

stam-ping feet, We come from far a-way you to greet You by the fire and we

in the street. Bid-ding you joy in the mor-ning! Bid - ding you joy at the

break of day. For ere one half of the night was gone Sud - den a star has

led us on, Now rain ing bliss and be-ni-son Bliss be to-mor - row and  
benison - a blessing

more a-non, Sing Joy for ev - er y mor-ning Sing Joy for ev er y

break of day Good man Jo seph toiled through the snow - And saw the star o'er a

sta - ble low; But Ma - ry she might not fur - ther go - Oh