

## Christmas Bells

Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written December 25, 1864

Music by Steve Givens and Jim Russell

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I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Till ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound the carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn, the households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,  
“For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail

With peace on earth, good will to men.”