

Christmas is an annual holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. Festivities often combine the celebration of the birth with various customs that are influenced by earlier winter festivals. Traditions such as displaying the nativity, holly, Christmas trees, gifts and cards often take place on Christmas Eve.

## Wild, Wild West Xmas



Here in this land of the Wild West

Away from sweethearts and lovers,  
Distant from the scenes of our  
childhood, Away from our old-  
fashioned mothers, removed from the  
storm beaten cottage where the ivy still  
tenderly clings;

Our absence makes a broken circle,  
whilst we are like birds, on the wing.

Here in this land of the sunset,

Years have gone since we said adieu; Yet Christmas recalls to our  
memories the old faces and friends still true.

And tonight there's a depth of feeling, which unbidden thrills each  
breast, whilst we sing of the now broken circle, gathered in the old  
home nest.

They speak of our wild life on the plains; how we laugh while storms  
are high, while sharing our lot with the kin, with our watchword to do  
or die, they call us the wild daring cowboys, forgetting that 'neath the  
rough vest the heart may beat tender as a woman's, although with her  
charms unblessed.

Away then with dull care and sorrow; the years are hastening away,

Why should we think of the morrow, Why not drink and be merry  
today.

Then here's health to our dear old folks, to the friends still loving and  
true; here's health to the land of our fathers, And, Wild West, here's  
health to you.

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Protestants condemned Christmas celebration as "trappings of popery" and "rags of the Beast" during the Reformation. Following victory in the English Civil War, Christmas was banned in 1647.

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