

# Christmas Carol

Mary Chapin Carpenter

The week before Thanksgiving Day  
This town puts up its old display  
Streetlights hung with candy canes and bows  
The earlier it gets each year  
The scarcer is my Christmas cheer  
I guess I just like taking these things slow

I really don't remember much  
Of Christmasses growing up  
Except the year the Beatles came to play  
On my record player that came from Sears  
That White Album filled my ears  
In 1968 on Christmas Day

I haven't been to church since God knows when  
I'm not someone who usually attends  
Truth be told there's just two wishes  
On my list every Christmas  
Peace on earth and a snow storm now and then

Now I pray that peace comes in our time  
It's hard enough to keep from crying  
When every bit of news just breaks your heart  
The same old stories, same old songs  
We dust them off when Christmas comes  
And for one day we just try to do our part

And around here winter seems to come  
With rain and mud and bits of sun  
It's not exactly Currier and Ives  
I don't mind cold if it brings snow  
Alberta Clippers come and go  
But a dursting would make everything all right

Perhaps a Christmas eve from long ago  
Delivered Christmas day with knee-high snow  
It's something lost but not forgotten  
Like candy hidden in a stocking  
That makes me every year wish it were so

Because Christmas is for children's joy  
For every single girl and boy  
That's the truth we come to understand  
But the memories that don't let go  
Like Beatles songs and falling snow  
Can make us feel innocent again

And maybe next year we won't go insane  
When they rush to hang the bows and candy canes  
Because peace will shine in me and you  
From Bethlehem to Timbuktu  
Even if the forecast is for rain

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