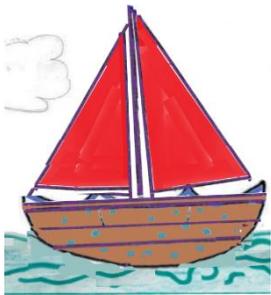


# I saw three ships

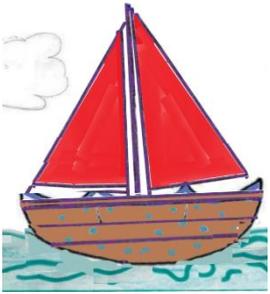
<https://riverofsong.uk/>

*A little known version of this Christmas song for children. I have failed to find this secular children's version of the Christmas song on the internet and would be delighted if someone could tell me its origins. The older and more traditional version tells of the Virgin Mary taken to Bethlehem. Find a New Year version here: [New Year's Song or I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing By](#)*

I saw three ships come sail - ing by, On Christ - mas day, on Christ - mas day, I  
saw three ships come sail - ing by, On Christ - mas day, in the morn - ing.



I saw three ships come sailing by,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
I saw three ships come sailing by,  
On Christmas day in the morning.



And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
And what was in those ships all three,  
On Christmas day in the morning?



Three jolly rats were in them then,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,  
Three jolly rats were in them then,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

Now one could whistle and one could sing,  
And one could play the violin;  
They joyfully played at the cat's wedding,  
On Christmas day in the morning.