

The cherry tree carol

<https://riverofsong.uk/>



This beautiful carol, Child #54, was collected in Britain in the seventeenth century though it was probably older; it was found throughout the Appalachians, in the Ozarks and also in Canada. It has been recorded by Joan Baez and Jean Ritchie among others.

Find more at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cherry-Tree_Carol.

Jo - seph was an old man, An old man was he, He
mar - ried Vir - gin Ma - ry the Queen of Gal - li - lee. He
mar - ried Vir - gin Ma - ry the Queen of Gal - li - lee.



Joseph was an old man, an old man was he,
He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee,
He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary walked through an orchard green,
There were berries and cherries as thick as might be seen,
There were berries and cherries as thick as might be seen.

Mary spoke to Joseph, so meek and so mild,
"Joseph, gather me some cherries for I am with child,
Joseph, gather me some cherries for I am with child"

Then Joseph flew in anger, in anger flew he,
"Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee!
Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee!"

Then up spoke baby Jesus, a few words spoke he,
"Let my mother have some cherries, bow low down cherry tree,
Let my mother have some cherries, bow low down cherry tree."

The cherry tree bowed low down, low down to the ground,
And Mary gathered cherries, while Joseph stood around,
And Mary gathered cherries, while Joseph stood around.

Then Joseph took Mary all on his right knee,
"Come tell me, little baby when your birthday shall be,
Come tell me, little baby when your birthday shall be."

"On the sixth day of January my birthday shall be,
When the stars in the heavens shall bow low down to me,
When the stars in the heavens shall bow low down to me."

As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel sing,
"Tonight shall be the birth-time of Christ, our heavenly king,
"Tonight shall be the birth-time of Christ, our heavenly king."