

I Wonder As I Wander **CHRISTMAS Appalachian Folksong**

Sung by Annie Morgan, July 1933, Murphy, North Carolina. Collected by John Jacob Niles
ARRANGED by DianaDee Osborne 2018 page 1 of 1

LYRICS

3/4 time (pu = 1)

TEMPO: **84** BPM

www.DianaDeeOsborneSongs.com CCLI pending.

dedicated to our Zech. 2:10 YHWH God, 10 Dec 2018

Album: Amazing **CHRIST 'n' Christmas**

Ref: 37-xxx

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.” -- Romans 5:8 NKJV

1

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

2

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers & shepherds & all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages ----- it then did recall.

3

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing-- A star in the sky or a bird on the wing--
or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing. He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King

4

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky

Song Story. Arranged by DianaDee Osborne and recorded 10 December 2018 to be used at
Christmas Eve Service... because I cannot sing this song in public.... Even in private, I always weep:
This is SUCH a sad song: God loves us SO much and has done SO much for us-- "The World", all
people (John 3:16-17).... Yet even we who say we love Him keep hurting Him over and over.... So I
created a recording with which I could play guitar, with the words easy to hear and worship / THANK
God for His First Christmas Gift.... without my voice trembling and breaking.

Published Song Story of this public domain old Appalachian FOLK SONG.... as told by John Jacob
Niles who collected this and other folk songs >> "I Wonder As I Wander" grew out of three lines of music
sung for me by a girl who called herself Annie Morgan. The place was Murphy, North Carolina, and the time was
July, 1933. The Morgan family, revivalists all, were about to be ejected by the police, after having camped in the
town square for some little time, cooking, washing, hanging their wash from the Confederate monument and
generally conducting themselves in such a way as to be classed a public nuisance. Preacher Morgan and his
wife pled poverty; they had to hold one more meeting in order to buy enough gas to get out of town. It was then
that Annie Morgan came out--a tousled, unwashed blond, and very lovely. She sang the first three lines of the
verse of 'I Wonder As I Wander'. At twenty-five cents a performance, **I tried to get her to sing all the song.**
After eight tries, all of which are carefully recorded in my notes, I had only three lines of verse, a garbled
fragment of melodic material--and a magnificent idea. With the writing of additional verses and the development
of the original melodic material, 'I Wonder As I Wander' came into being. I sang it for five years in my concerts
before it caught on. Since then, it has been sung by soloists and choral groups wherever the English language is
spoken and sung." INFO SOURCE: <https://www.john-jacob-niles.com/music.htm>