

Mary, Vessel of Holiness

Solo Voice and Accompaniment
Christmastide

When I first heard this Scottish song, not knowing Scots Gaelic, the strong rhythms in triple meter struck me as those of a sea chantey (think of “**A-way** to the **south**’ard we **go**”). At the same time the gentle rocking of the phrases suggested a lullaby. Marian agreed to match this melody with a lullaby for Mary incorporating imagery of the sea.

Much later I discovered that the song’s original words express longing for home, that its imagery is of mountains and meadows, and that the song was written in 1856 by Iain Camshroin of Ballachulish in the Scottish Highlands.

Albert Blackwell
January 4, 2012

Mary, Vessel of Holiness

Marian Willard Blackwell

Iain Camshroin, 1856*

Arr. Albert Blackwell

Rhythmically

Voice

1. Ma-ry, ves-sel of ho-li-ness, Ma-ry, bea-con of hope-ful-ness,

Acc.

4

Ma - ry, ha - ven of hum - ble-ness, mo - ther-ing Je-sus our Sav - ior.

**Chi mi na morbheanna*

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6

2. Rock him in the bow of the cov - e - nant, stead - y him on the keel of the rev - er - ent,

6

8

swell his soul from the depths to the fir - ma - ment, fix him on God and his neigh - bor.

8

10

3. Mar - ry, ves - sel of ho - li-ness, Ma - ry, bea - con of hope - ful-ness

12

Ma - ry, ha - ven of hum - ble-ness, mo - ther-ing Je-sus our Sav - ior.

14

4. Stay him while the storm clouds are hov-er-ing, brace him when the gale winds are stiff-en-ing,

14

16

sooth him with a song for the suf-fer-ing, steer him to heav-en's safe har - bor.

16

18

5. Ma - ry, ves - sel of ho - li - ness, Ma - ry, bea - con of hope - ful - ness,

18

21

Ma - ry, ha - ven of hum - ble - ness, mo - ther - ing Je - sus our Sav - ior.

rit.

21

rit.