

## Carrie Newcomer

### "A Long Christmas Dinner"

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Cal made the long table for his bride June  
When the first child was born and they needed more  
room  
Cal was one of four sons, and there was too little farm  
And the railroad had work so they moved into town

First came Emmet and Clara, William and Grace  
Around the long table they all took their place  
Every year they would gather sing carols and hymns  
With canned peaches and shortcake and four wide  
grins

But it feels like it's been one long Christmas dinner  
One unending prayer, one unbroken line  
Singing "Be Thou My Vision" by day or by night  
All is calm and all is bright.

Eating strawberry jam from our victory garden  
June kept giving Emmet more food than he wanted  
As if she could fill him with enough food and faith  
To last him through Europe and bring him home safe

Clara moved back at Christmas with her two children  
When her husband ran off, with girl who was willing  
When Grace's small daughter offered up her shortcake  
Clara leaned on Will's shoulder and covered her face

But it feels like it's been one long Christmas dinner  
One unending prayer, one unbroken line  
Singing "Be Thou My Vision" by day or by night  
All is calm and all is bright.

Long ago Emmet came home, now he carves the ham  
Though Since then he's needed a leg brace to stand  
He and Grace visit often, and help mom with yard work  
Who still can't believe what their wearing to church

Cousin Ann's in Chicago and she stayed good friends  
With cousin Rose who's a painter and lives in South  
Bend  
And William's boy Michael is a young handsome rogue

Cruisin' town with an eight track of Abby Road

But it feels like it's been one long Christmas dinner  
One unending prayer, one unbroken line  
Singing "Be Thou My Vision" by day or by night  
All is calm and all is bright.

There been so many joys and so many cradles  
But there was one who spent only one year at the table  
It must have been grandma who gathered her close  
So she'd have no fear when they both passed across

So put out the canned peaches in honor of June  
And for Michael's grown daughter who's coming home  
soon  
For all that we've lost or we haven't found yet  
All who come to the table and clasp hands around it.

And it feels like it's been one long Christmas dinner  
One unending prayer, one unbroken line  
Singing "Be Thou My Vision" by day or by night  
All is calm and all is bright.

All is calm and all is bright.

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