## Mary Chapin Carpenter "Christmas Carol"

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The week before Thanksgiving Day
This town puts up its old display
Streetlights hung with candy canes and bows

The earlier it gets each year
The scarcer is my Christmas cheer
I guess I just like taking these things slow

I really don't remember much
Of Christmases growing up
Except the year the Beatles came to play

On my record player that came from Sears That white album filled my ears In 1968 on Christmas Day

I haven't been to church Since God knows when I'm not someone who usually attends

Truth be told there's just two wishes
On my list every Christmas
Peace on earth and a snow storm now and then

Now I pray that peace comes in our time It's hard enough to keep from crying When every bit of news just breaks your heart

The same old stories, same old songs We dust them off when Christmas comes For one day we just try to do our part

And around here winter seems to come With rain and mud and bits of sun It's not exactly Currier and Ives

I don't mind cold if it brings snow Alberta Clippers come and go But a dusting would make everything alright

Perhaps a Christmas Eve from long ago Delivered Christmas Day With knee high snow

It's something lost but not forgotten Like candy hidden in a stocking That makes me every year wish it were so

Because Christmas is for children's joy For every single girl and boy That's the truth we come to understand

But the memories that don't let go Like Beatles songs and falling snow Can make us feel innocent again

And maybe next year we won't go insane When they rush to hang the bows And candy canes

Because peace will shine in me and you From Bethlehem to Timbuktu Even if the forecast is for rain

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