

## May-Day Carol ['meɪ.ɪ,deɪ 'kæ(ɛ)r.əl]

An English Folksong (Essex) [Br]

Transcribe and harmonize by *Deems Taylor* (1885–1966) [Am]

**The moon shines bright,**  
[ðʌ mun ʃa:ɪnz bra:ɪt]

**The stars give a light,**  
[ðʌ stɑ:z gɪv ʌ la:ɪt]

A little before 'tis day.  
Our heavenly Father he called to us  
And bid us to wake and pray.

Awake, awake,  
O pretty, pretty maid,  
Out of your drowsy dream,  
And step into your dairy below,  
And fetch me a bowl of cream.

If not a bowl of your sweet cream,  
A cup to bring you cheer;  
For the Lord knows where we shall meet again  
To be maying another year.

I been a-rambling all this night,  
And sometime of this day,  
And now, returning back again,  
I brought you a branch of May.

A branch of May I brought you here,  
And at your door I stand.  
'Tis nothing but a sprout, but well budded out  
By the work of Our Lord's hand...

---

The entire text to this title with the complete  
IPA transcription is available for download.

*Thank you!*

