

# Canticles for the Twelve Days of Christmas

- 1 Partridge perching,  
you assure us  
of True Love's  
self-giving for us.
- 2 The time has arrived for  
our God to be manned,  
and the voice of the turtle  
is heard in our land.
- 3 French hens, spread  
your wings around him!  
Herod's henchmen  
haste to hound him.
- 4 Calling birds,  
your calls revise!  
Salute the  
bird of paradise!
- 5 The age of gold  
comes into view!  
Ring out the old!  
Ring in the new!
- 6 Geese a-laying,  
take a gander  
at this child  
laid in a manger!
- 7 Swans a-swimming,  
know before long  
he must also  
sing his swansong!
- 8 Maids a-milking,  
marvel at  
the mother-maid's  
Magnificat!
- 9 Ladies dancing,  
tread your measure!  
Celebrate  
God's hidden treasure!

- 10 Leaping lords,  
your Lord address,  
who leapt from heaven  
to lowliness!
- 11 Pipers piping,  
lead us longing  
to the heart  
of all belonging!
- 12 Drummers, keep your  
drumbeats beating!  
Evil's armies  
are retreating.