



Ode to a Bell Ringer

By a member of the Memorial Handbell Ringers,
First Presbyterian Church, Littleton, Colorado
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*I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
And over and over they seemed to say,
“Why did you goof on “Crusaders Hymn?”
“Why did you stop and start over again?”
“Why, what do you mean that something went wrong?”
“Nothing unusual was wrong with that song.”*

*I thought of what the trouble could be
And other than these, it went perfectly.
I lifted my bell and counted to three,
Then nothing came out. “Oh, woe is me!”
I need to sneeze and scratch my nose,
But both hands were busy, and so were my toes,*

*The dust on my glasses forbade me to see,
And I picked up the B flat, instead of the C.
And that wasn't all of my problems for that day.*

*I worked up a sweat and my Ban gave way,
My garter unfastened and fell to the floor.
The man in the front row began to snore.
“Begin the fifth line, and remember dynamics.”*

*I gave it my all, but I played line six,
The very last straw came at the end.*

*When I knew I must smile, but my mouth wouldn't bend.
But I won't give up, because at the next show,
A new set of problems will develop, I know. . .*

A new set of problems will develop, I know.



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