The Rebel Jesus

Jackson Browne

All the streets are filled with laughter and light

And the music of the season

And the merchants windows are all bright

With the faces of the childrenAnd the families hurrying to their homes

As the sky darkens and freezes

Will be gathering around the hearths and tables

Giving thanks for God's graces

And the birth of the rebel JesusWell they call Him by the prince of peace

And they call Him by the Savior

And they pray to Him upon the seas

And in every bold endeavor And they fill His churches with their pride and gold

As their faith in Him increases

But they've turned the nature that I worship in

From a temple to a robber's den

In the words of the rebel JesusWe guard our world with locks and guns

And we guard our fine possessions

And once a year when Christmas comes

We give to our relations And perhaps we give a little to the poor

If the generosity should seize us

But if any one of us should interfere

In the business of why there are poor

They get the same as the rebel JesusBut pardon me if I have seemed

To take the tone of judgment

For I've no wish to come between

This day and your enjoymentIn a life of hardship and of earthly toil

There is a need for anything that frees us

So I bid you pleasure and I bid you cheer

From a heathen and a pagan

On the side of the rebel Jesus

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