

O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench 162

1 O car - pen - ter, why leave the bench where
 2 O car - pen - ter, why leave the tools to
 3 O car - pen - ter, why leave the world of
 4 O car - pen - ter, why leave re - pairs with
 5 O car - pen - ter, who else could do the

wood yields to your art, and take in - stead, to
 car - ry out your plans, and go in - stead to
 ta - ble, bed, and house, to face the em - pire's
 wood and clamp and glue, and rise from death to
 work that you have done? What can we do but

try your skill, the ston - y hu - man heart?
 do God's work with emp - ty, o - pen hands?
 car - pen - try, to lift a Ro - man cross?
 seek in - stead to make the whole world new?
 sing your praise, O Sav - ior, Mar - y's son!

By dismissing Jesus as “the carpenter” (Mark 6:3) or “the carpenter’s son” (Matthew 13:55), his neighbors convinced themselves that they could ignore his teaching. This reflective text explores the distance between that humble craft and the great importance of Christ’s true work.