

Hymns for the Christmas morning service (December 25th, 2020)

- 1. Christians, awake! salute the happy morn,**
on which the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above:
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate, and the virgin's Son.
2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice,
'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations upon earth;
this day has God fulfilled His promised
word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'
3. He spoke; and straightway the celestial
choir
in hymns of joy unknown before conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with hallelujahs
rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
'Peace upon earth, and unto men goodwill.'
4. O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost
mankind;
trace we the babe who has retrieved our
loss
from His poor manger to His bitter cross;
tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes
place.

5. Then may we hope, th'angelic hosts
among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
He that was born upon this joyful day
around us all His glory shall display;
saved by His love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

(John Byrom)

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,**
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not!' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
3. 'To you, in David's town, this day
is born, of David's line,
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, and thus
addressed their joyful song:
6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace:
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

(Nahum Tate)

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1. **See He lies there in the manger**
who once made the earth and sky.
Down from heaven He's come, a stranger;
newly born, yet born to die.
Hands almighty, now lie helpless
round His mother's finger curled;
lips so gracious, now yet speechless,
soon will speak to all the world.
 2. Shepherds hasten to adore Him,
wise men offer gifts so rare.
See the lowly maiden rocks Him
gently, with a mother's care.
Made a man for man's salvation,
yet eternal God is He;
born to save from every nation,
from their chains to set men free.
 3. Now they worship and adore Him
as they hear the baby's cries;
but the crowds will mock and scorn Him
as He helpless hangs and dies.
Christ incarnate, come to save us,
rid our hearts of wretched pride;
reign alone as Sovereign o'er us –
You are worthy! You have died!
 4. Well might angels sing in wonder
as they herald forth His birth;
even they can scarcely ponder
why God's Son came down to earth.
See Him now, enthroned in glory,
earth awaiting His return.
While our hearts recount His story
may these hearts within us burn.
1. **To us a child of hope is born,**
to us a Son is given,
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
Him all the hosts of heaven.
 2. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
for evermore adored;
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the great and mighty Lord.
 3. His power increasing still shall spread,
His reign no ending know;
justice shall guard His throne above,
and peace abound below.
 4. The race that long in darkness pined
have seen a glorious Light;
the people dwell in day, who dwelt
in death's surrounding night.
 5. To us a child of hope is born,
to us a Son is given,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the mighty Lord of heaven.

(John Morison; based on Isaiah 9:2-7)

*("See He lies there" - words by Graham Stuart
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