

# A Favourite Hymn for the Nativity

## Christmas Hymn

Charles Wesley

John Alcock, (jnr.), 1776

Treble

1 Hark, Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new - born  
 2 Christ, Christ by high - est heav'n ad - ored, Christ the e - ver - last - ing  
 3 Hail, Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Right - ous -

Alto

Tenor

1 Hark, Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new - born  
 2 Christ, Christ by high - est heav'n ad - ored, Christ the e - ver - last - ing  
 3 Hail, Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Right - ous -

Bass

⑧

King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.  
 Lord! Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of a Vir - gin's womb.  
 -ness, Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings,

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Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies,  
 Veil'd in flesh the God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glor - y by, Born that man no more may die,

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With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem,  
 Pleas'd as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.  
 Pleas'd as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth

33 Chorus

Hark, Hark, the her-ald an-gels sing, the her-ald an-gels sing,  
 Hark, Hark, the her-ald an-gels sing, the her-ald an-gels sing,

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Glo - ry, Glo - ry to the new born King, Glo - ry to the new - born King.  
 Glo - ry, Glo - ry to the new born King, Glo - ry to the new - born King.

First printed on its own by John Alcock (jnr.) in 1776 as *A Favourite Hymn for the Nativity*, and set as treble-led in 4 parts. He then included it in his *Collection of Anthems for the Three Festivals, Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, with a Hymn for the Nativity and a Christmas Carol*, printed in London c. 1777, and again in four parts. (The carol is tune only.) Although used by Dr John Randall in Cambridge and by William Green in London, both these settings were in two parts only; the only other settings before 1820 in four parts come from America, although this time tenor-led. This setting, entitled *Christmas Hymn*, trans. © Edwin and Sheila Macadam, Oxford, 2007, comes from a manuscript dated 1838, found about 10 years ago in Nottingham, and which appears principally to be set out as keyboard arrangements of mostly early tunes, complete with two Symphonies or Interludes each.

The tune is similar to one used in the Burford Bass Quire Book.