



3 1st December 2023

The First Sunday of Christmas Hymns

♪ Hymn (70) ♪

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Through all the earth, goodwill and
peace
from heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

With sorrow brought by sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
and, since the angels sang, have passed
two thousand years of wrong:
the nations, still at war, hear not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, and cease the strife,
to hear the angels sing!

And those whose journey now is hard,
whose hope is burning low,
who tread the rocky path of life
with painful steps and slow:
O listen to the news of love
which makes the heavens ring!
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

And still the days are hastening on —
by prophets seen of old —
towards the fullness of the time
when comes the age foretold:
then earth and heaven renewed shall
see
the Prince of Peace, their King;

and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

*Edward Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) adapted by
Jubilate Hymns*

♪ Hymn (89) ♪

While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he, (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.'

'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:

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'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 (1652-1715)

♪ Hymn (59) ♪

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth.

*Come and worship,
Christ, the newborn King;
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen His natal star.

Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in His temple shall appear.

Though an Infant now we view Him,
He shall fill His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to Him;
every knee shall then bow down:

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

♪ **Chant (CAHON 929)** ♪

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices: the Lord is near,
lift up your voices: the Lord is near.

Taizé Community © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

♪ **Hymn (464)** ♪

Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home;
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to Thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear, all trustfully,

we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.

Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
the Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.

The final line of each verse is repeated

Francis Stanfield (1835-1914)

♪ **Hymn (72)** ♪

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) based on Psalm 97