

**Christians awake, salute the happy morn,
whereon 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:**

**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 hath God fulfilled
 His promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'**

**He spake;
and straightaway the heav'nly 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 mutual goodwill.**

**To Bethlehem straight
the enlightened shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,
and found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,
her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,
the first apostles of His infant fame.**

**Like Mary, let us 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;
treading His steps, assisted by His grace,
till man's first heavenly state
again takes place.**

**Then may we hope,
the angelic thrones 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
of angels and of angel men the King.**

John Byrom, 1691-1763

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Prayer

**O come all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him
born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

**God of God,
Light of Light,
Io! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created;**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest':**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee, be glory given.
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing.**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

John Wade c. 1711-86 Tr. Frederick Oakley 1802-80

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**Unto us a boy is born,
all the bells are ringing!
Angels greet the holy One
and shepherds hear them singing,
and shepherds hear them singing.**

**‘Go to Bethlehem today,
find your king and saviour;
glory be to God on high,
to earth His peace and favour,
to earth His peace and favour!’**

**Held within a cattle stall,
loved by love maternal,
see the master of us all,
our Lord of lords eternal,
our Lord of lords eternal.**

**Soon shall come the wise men three,
rousing Herod's anger,
mothers' hearts shall broken be
and Mary's son in danger,
and Mary's son in danger.**

**Death from life and life from death,
our salvation's story:**

**let all living things give breath
to Christmas songs of glory,
to Christmas songs of glory.**

Michael Perry

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Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Luke 2:1-7

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

Luke 2:1-7

⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

Luke 2:1-7

⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Joy to the world, the Lord has 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 earth, the Saviour reigns!

Your sweetest songs employ

while fields and streams

and hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
where Eden's curse is found,
where Eden's curse is found,
wherever Eden's curse is found.**

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

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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**Hark! The herald angels sing,
‘Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!’
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'**

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

**Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.**

**Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King.'**

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**