

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR - CHRISTMAS

21

YORKSHIRE OR STOCKPORT. (10 10. 10 10. 10 10.)

In moderate time, dignified ♩ = 100.

J. WAINWRIGHT, 1723-68.

The musical score is presented in five systems, each consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is G major (one sharp) for the first three systems and D major (two sharps) for the last two. The tempo is marked 'In moderate time, dignified' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats. The notation includes various chordal textures and melodic lines, with some notes beamed together and slurs used to indicate phrasing. The piece ends with a final cadence in the fifth system.

John Byrom, 1690-1763.

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:

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 hath God fulfilled his promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

Unison. 3 He spake; 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 Alleluyas rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace upon earth, and mutual goodwill.

4 To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,
And found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;
Amazed the wondrous story they proclaim,
The first apostles of his infant fame.

5. * Like Mary let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From his poor manger to his bitter cross;
Then may we hope, angelic thrones among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.

