Birley Edge

From the music of the Mount-Dawson Manuscript, Worrall, Sheffield.
Ed. and trans. Dr Ian Russell.

Mortals awake, with angels join And
Swift through the vast expanse it flows, And
Hail, Prince of Light, forever hail! Re-

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loud the echo rolls; The theme, the song, the joy was new, ‘Twas more than

deem-er, brother, friend; Though earth and time and life shall fail, Thy praise shall

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Birley Edge is in so bleak a situation that a local wit said he did not shave on a Sunday morning, but just went up to the base of the cross there and stuck first one side and then the other side of his face out, and the wind shore off his whiskers as clean as a whistle.
This carol, and its instrumental accompaniment, come from the strong carolling tradition around Sheffield, extensively researched by Dr Ian Russell of Aberdeen University. At the Village Carols Festival in 2008 he requested that this carol should be more widely known, and therefore sung, around Britain. This setting has been copied from his 'Sheffield Book of Village Carols', published in 2011, details of which, plus order form, can be found on the Village Carols website at www.villagecarols.org.uk