Old Christians

After "Stockport" by John Wainwright

Christians awake! salute the happy morn, Where-on the

Saviour of mankind 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 in-
Then to the watchful shepherds it was told.
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, behold
I bring glad 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.

1
Christians, awake! salute this happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of this 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
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 alleluias rang
God's highest glory was their anthem still
Peace upon earth and unto men goodwill.

3
Score reproduced from 'Ye Old Christmas Carols' (Bradford Evening Institute Choral Society, [1967]), and with cross-reference to Ian Russell's 'Sheffield Book of Village Carols').

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2
3