An Hymn for Christmas Day

William Knapp

Tr.

1. Hark hear ye not a cheerful, cheerful
2. So loud they sung it down to, down to
3. Their Prince, their God, like one, like one of

A.

1. Hark hear ye not a cheerful, cheerful
2. So loud they sung it down to, down to
3. Their Prince, their God, like one, like one of

Ten.

1. Hark hear ye not a cheerful, cheerful
2. So loud they sung it down to, down to
3. Their Prince, their God, like one, like one of

B.

1. Hark hear ye not a cheerful, cheerful
2. So loud they sung it down to, down to
3. Their Prince, their God, like one, like one of

noise, which makes ye Earth, innocent children heard their mirth, those, is made a child and wrapt in cloaths,

noise, which makes ye Earth, innocent children heard their mirth, those, is made a child and wrapt in cloaths,

noise, which makes ye Earth, innocent children heard their mirth, those, is made a child and wrapt in cloaths,
'An Hymn for Christmas Day' comes from A Book of Psalmody, 'collected, printed, taught and sold by Matthew Wilkins of Great Milton near Thame, Oxfordshire'. c.1760 (B.Lb. A.992.)

Earliest known source of the tune to date is William Knapp's 'Anthems for Christmas Day', pub. 1743 (only known copy in USA). Knapp published the tune as Keynson, to a different text, 10 years later, in 'New Church Melody'. Daniel Bayley reproduced 'Keynson' in his New Universal Harmony, Mass., in 1773.

No other published versions of the original tune have yet been found.

Unlike the New Oxford Book of Carols, we have resisted the temptation in Bar 11 to alter 'light' to 'like', and adhered to Wilkins' word fit and spelling. © Shelwin Music, Oxford, 2006 and 2014.