

Come Celebrate th'Auspicious Morn **C 120 a**
(Then let us be merry)

T. Truswell

Joseph Key - Book IV

Come ce - le - brate th'aus - pi - cious morn, The Sa - viour

of man - kind is born; Shep - herds at - tend the friend - ly Voice, and at these

Ti - dings all re - joice, and at these Ti - dings all re - joice.

Then let us be mer - ry and Joy - ful - ly Sing, This morn - ing gave

birth to our Heav - en - ly King this Morn - ing gave birth to our Heav - en - ly

King; Then ban-ish all sor-row, be chear-ful and gay, our bless-ed Re -

King; Then ban-ish all sor-row, be chear-ful and gay, our bless-ed Re -

-deem-er was born on this Day, our bless-ed Re - deem - er was born on this day.

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The musical score consists of two systems of four staves each. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next two lines. Each system includes a vocal line (soprano and alto) and a piano accompaniment (treble and bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). Trills (tr) are indicated above the final notes of the second and fourth lines.

1. Come celebrate th'auspicious morn,
The Saviour of mankind is born.
Shepherds attend the friendly voice,
And at these tidings all rejoice.
2. Behold! a spotless Virgin fair
Hath brought to Light her only Care;
Whilst guardian Angels now descend,
The new-born Infant to attend.
3. The Shepherds all with joy repair,
To seek their only Saviour dear;
Angelic Voices sweetly sing,
To hail the lovely new-born King.
4. Directed by the heav'nly Guest,
The Shepherds found the place of Rest;
Within a Manger fill'd with Hay,
'Twas there the great Messiah lay.
5. The Shepherd's sang with Hearts elate,
To view the Infant's humble State;
Still may the Day be blest on Earth,
That gave our dear Redeemer birth.

NOTES:

B.L. Ref: G. 521.(4.) T334b.

Alto line originally an octave higher.

* Grace notes after have been written in full.

The original is in Book IV of Joseph Key's music - *Five Anthems and Four Hymns* - London, and published by his widow ca. 1790.

In 1789 his previous three books were advertised in Thomas Williams's *Psalmodia Evangelica*, London 1789. Key himself died in 1784.

Another version in D can be found (without the Alto part, with S and T parts reversed, and several changes in ornamentation, etc.) in William Harris's manuscript book from Rodmell, Sussex, dated 1842, and now in the Sussex Archaeological Society Library, Lewes. First 3 verses only. (*Vic Gammon - Hope in the Valley, Lewes, 1982*)

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