





'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.) H.T.I. tune no. 1638. 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 to alter in Bar 11 'light' to 'like', and adhered to Wilkins' word fit and spelling. © Shelwin Music, Oxford, 2006 and 2014.