

Text:
Early 18th C. or before.

Nottinghamshire MS
arr. Ralph Dunston (1857-1933)

1 Hark, hark, what news the An - gels bring!
2 *This is the day, the bles-sed morn,* Glad tid - ings,
3 If An - gels sang at Je - su's birth,
4 *My soul, learn by thy Sa - viour's birth,*

Hark, hark, what news the An - gels bring!
This is the day, the bles-sed morn, Glad tid - ings,
If an - gels sang at Je - su's birth,
My soul, learn by thy Sa - viour's birth,

Glad tid - ings, Glad tid - ings of a new - born King!
The Sa - viour of man - kind was born;
Sure we have grea - ter cause for mirth;
For to de - base thy - self on earth,

Glad tid - ings, Glad tid - ings of a new - - born King!
The Sa - viour of man - kind was born;
Sure we have grea - ter cause for mirth;
For to de - base thy - self on earth,

Glad tid - ings, Glad tid - ings,

This carol is included by Ralph Dunston in his publication 'Christmas Carols', published by Reid Brothers, London, 1923. His preface freely acknowledges that he has edited and arranged the collection of some 58 carols which he had put together in over 50 years. A number of them came from "treasured manuscript sources" to which he had access in Cornwall, when from the age of 10 he was a member of the choir of a village chapel near Truro, playing successively a piccolo, flute, clarinet, euphonium and bassoon. These sources ranged the length and breadth of the county. His other sources were from the British Museum, and from copies supplied by friends.

11 12 14

1 Who is the Sa - viour of man - kind, In whom we
 2 *Born of a maid, a Vir - gin pure, Born with - out*
 3 For why? be - cause 'twas for our sake Christ did our
 4 *That thou may'st be ex - al - ted high, And dwell with*

1 Who is the Sa - viour of man - kind, In
 2 *Born of a maid, a Vir - gin pure, Born*
 3 For why? be - cause 'twas for our sake Christ
 4 *That thou may'st be ex - al - ted high, And*

In whom we may sal -
Born with - out - sin, from
 Christ did our hu - man
And dwell with Him e -

16 18 20

may sal - va - tion find, In whom we may sal - va - tion find.
sin, from guilt se - cure, Born with - out sin, from guilt se - cure.
 hu - man na - ture take, Christ did our hu - man na - ture take.
Him e - ter - nal - ly, And dwell with Him e - ter - nal - ly.

whom we may sal - va - tion find, In whom we may sal - va - tion find.
with - out sin from guilt se - cure, Born with - out sin, from guilt se - cure.
 did our hu - man na - ture take, Christ did our hu - man na - ture take.
dwell with Him e - ter - nal - ly, And dwell with Him e - ter - nal - ly.

-va - - - - tion find,
guilt se - cure,
 na - - - - ture take,
-ter - - - - nal - ly,

This setting, on page 50 of Dunstan's book, is from Northamptonshire, and is presumably from a local manuscript, although the exact details are not divulged by Dunstan. The tune is not recorded in Temperley's HTI, and is different to those collected orally by both Gilbert and Sandys. It is also not those composed by Knapp 1743, Stephenson ca 1775, or Benjamin Smith in 1713. The words, however, are those used by Smith. The New OBC suggests an earlier setting of Smith's tune, and probably therefore the words, back to the time of Purcell when that setting, in two parts, was used as a hymn for private devotion.

This trans. Shelwin Music, Oxford, 2019