

This tune by William Jackson of Exeter first appeared in his Hymns in Three Parts, 1768, set to Ps. 119 NV. It was not favoured in any other publication until 1817, in Benjamin Jacob's National Psalmody. Then entitled Hymn for Christmas Day, it is a Double Common Metre setting of While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night. Jacob, organist at the Surry Chapel, London (1794-1825), harmonized Jackson's tune and added an organ symphony. Jacob's symphonies proved popular with country quires and bands and several examples of his work have been found in west gallery manuscript sources. In the county of Jackson's birth, 50 years after the tune's emergence, Richard Garbett, organist of St David's, Exeter, included the tune in his Sacred Harmony, on this occasion in five parts. The realisation of the Jacob's organ keyboard part is editorial. HTI 3200b. © This edition Sheilwin Music, Oxford, 2023.

