

The Nativity of Christ

Behold, the father is his daughter's son,
The bird that built the nest is hatched therein,
The old of years an hour hath not outrun,
Eternal life to live doth now begin,
The Word is dumb, the mirth of heaven doth weep,
Might feeble is and force doth faintly creep.

O dying souls, behold your living spring;
O dazzled eyes, behold your sun of grace;
Dull ears, attend what word this Word doth bring;
Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy embrace.
From death, from dark, from deafness, from despairs,
This life, this light, this Word, this joy repairs.

Gift better than Himself God does not know;
Gift better than his God no man can see.
This gift doth here the giver given bestow;
Gift to this gift let each receiver be.
God is my gift, himself he freely gave me;
God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.

Man altered was by sin from man to beast;
Beast's food is hay, hay is all mortal flesh.
Now God is flesh and lies in manger pressed
As hay, the brutest sinner to refresh.
O happy field wherein this fodder grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to men renew.

Robert Southwell (1561–1595)

The Nativity of Christ*

J.A.C. Redford

3

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na na

Hn

8 hold the fa - ther is his

hold the fa - ther is his

mp

4

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Hn

bird that built the nest is

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[illegible]

11

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f The

f The

12

Word is dumb, the

Word is dumb, the

mf

Musical score for measures 10-13. The score is in 4/4 time. It features three staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and one piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are: "mirth of heav'n doth weep,". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

10
13

mirth of heav'n doth weep,

mirth of heav'n doth weep,

Musical score for measures 14-15. The score is in 4/4 time. It features three staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and one piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are: "Might fee - ble is, and". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

14

mf
Might fee - ble is, and

mf
Might fee - ble is, and

mp