

# London Gallery Quire 22

1

Text anon.

A hymn for Christmas, attrib. William Knapp (c1698-1768)

Edited by Francis Roads

A Virgin unspotted, the prophets foretold

[♩=132]

Soprano

1. A Vir - gin un - spot - ted, the pro - phet fore - told, Should bring forth a  
 2. *Through Beth - le - hem ci - ty in Je - wry it was Where Jo - seph and*  
 3. But Ma - ry's full time be - ing come, as we find, She brought forth her  
 4. *But Ma - ry, blest Ma - ry, so meek and so mild, Soon wrapt up in*  
 5. To teach us hu - mi - li - ty all this was done, Then learn we hence -

Alto

Tenor [Air]

1. A Vir - gin un - spot - ted, the pro - phet for - told, Should bring forth a  
 2. *Through Beth - le - hem ci - ty in Je - wry it was Where Jo - seph and*  
 3. But Ma - ry's full time be - ing come, as we find, She brought forth her  
 4. *But Ma - ry, blest Ma - ry, so meek and so mild, Soon wrapt up in*  
 5. To teach us hu - mi - li - ty all this was done, Then learn we hence -

Bass

8

S

Sa - viour, which now we be - hold. To be our re - dee - mer from death hell and sin,  
*Ma - ry to - ge - ther did pass, And there to be tax - èd when thi - ther they came,*  
 first - born to save all man - kind. The inns be - ing full for this hea - ven - ly guest,  
*swadd - lings this hea - ven - ly child. Con - ten - ted, she laid him where ox - en did feed,*  
 forth haugh - ty pride for to shun. A man - ger his cra - dle, who came from a - bove,

A

T

Sa - viour, which now we be - hold. To be our re - dee - mer from death hell and sin,  
*Ma - ry to - ge - ther did pass, And there to be tax - èd when thi - ther they came,*  
 first - born to save all man - kind. The inns be - ing full for this hea - ven - ly guest,  
*swadd - lings this hea - ven - ly child. Con - ten - ted, she laid him where ox - en did feed,*  
 forth haugh - ty pride for to shun. A man - ger his cra - dle, who came from a - bove,

B

## A Virgin unspotted, the prophet foretold 22

16

S

Which A - dam's trans - gres - sion in - vol - ved us in. *Then let us be*  
*Since Cae - sar Au - gus - tus com - man - ded the same.*  
 No place there was found for to lay him to rest.  
*The great God of na - ture ap - proved of the deed.*  
 The great God of mer - cy, of peace, and of love.

A

T

8

Which A - dam's trans - gres - sion in - vol - ved us in. *Then let us be*  
*Since Cae - sar Au - gus - tus com - man - ded the same.*  
 No place there was found for to lay him to rest.  
*The great God of na - ture ap - proved of the deed.*  
 The great God of mer - cy, of peace, and of love.

B

23

S

*mer - ry, cast sor - row a - way, Our Sa - viour, Christ Je - sus, was born on this day.*

A

T

8

*mer - ry, cast sor - row a - way, Our Sa - viour, Christ Je - sus, was born on this day.*

B

This carol appears in William Knapp's *Anthems for Christmas Day in Four Parts* (London 1744) in a three part version, despite his title. Many versions of this carol are found in the folk tradition, often differing considerably from Knapp's. It is possible that they all derive from Knapp's version, but he may have simply made his own arrangement of an existing tune.