

Hymns to be set for the Christmas Services

*A Star Not Mapped on Human Charts*

KINGSFOLD

Solo: A star not mapped on human charts  
disturbed the eastern skies  
and stirred the questing minds and hearts  
of three kings rich and wise.  
Attracted by the mystic light  
their science did not frame,  
they travelled through the cloud of night  
to learn its holy name.

Choir Men: That star which cheered the seeking soul  
announcing Christ was here,  
made Herod plot to keep control  
through violence and fear.  
The tyrant hid his anxious thought  
and said "Report to me  
when you have found the child you've sought  
that I might come and see.

Choir Women: That star above our shadowed earth  
now moved across the skies  
and marked the place of holy birth  
before the wise men's eyes.  
They offered incense, myrrh and gold  
while on their knees to pray.  
Then through a dream the kings were told:  
"Go home and other way!"

Congregation:  
That star which pierced the ancient night  
has faded from above,  
yet through the visionary sight  
of faith and hope and love  
we, like the wisemen, still may find  
life's animating goal:  
the Christ who prompts the probing mind  
and lights the open soul.

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Choir Women: A thousand stars that light the sky  
are not so bright or near so high  
as that which God intends to do:  
a promise, rising bright and new.  
The grains of sand that line the shore  
match not what God has yet in store –  
a world the Word will come to mend  
with love and life that has no end.

Choir Men: How many thousand years must pass  
with hopes that fade like summer grass,  
before we reach the age of peace  
when hate and rage at last will cease?  
How long, O God, will you forget?  
How long must we accept “not yet”?  
But still, you promise peace on earth  
and guide the coming age to birth.

Congregation: With Abraham and Sarah, dream –  
see all that God will soon redeem.  
Seek life, not bound for empty death,  
But filled by God’s life-giving breath.  
With Mary, wait, expect, and pray,  
with Joseph, watch to greet the day  
when sin’s deep night is dead and gone  
and longed-for peace at last will dawn.

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Jesus entered Egypt  
fleeing Herod's hand,  
living as an alien  
in a foreign land.  
Far from home and country  
with his family,  
was there room and welcome  
for this refugee?

Jesus was a migrant  
living as a guest  
with the friends and strangers  
who could offer rest.  
Do we hold wealth lightly  
so that we can share  
shelter with the homeless,  
and abundant care?

Jesus crosses borders  
with the wand'ring poor,  
Searching for a refuge,  
for an open door.  
Do our words and actions  
answer Jesus's plea:  
"Give the lowly welcome,  
and you welcome me"?

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In darkest night, the heavens declare your majesty,  
your wisdom, power, glory for all the world to see.  
Where Abram gazed in wonder, we stand in awe today,  
as stupefied and challenged as he by that display.  
Still there, in all their splendor, the stars proclaim your might,  
still there your faithful promise beams love and life and light.

Then to this darkened planet you sent your Morning Star,  
the Light of light from heaven, to lead us where You are;  
from that Judean atom a constellation burst,  
each star a shining angel announcing peace on earth.  
Look down with joy from heaven, dear God, be pleased to see,  
piercing our earthly darkness - your global galaxy!

Here shine as cheerful heralds, a sparkling diadem,  
announce Messiah's coming at night in Bethlehem;  
reflect the love that made you and set you where you are,  
that honored you and chose you to be a guiding star;  
entice the wise and wary to permanent domains,  
that nightless new creation where God in glory reigns.

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