

Behold the Bridegroom draweth nigh

"Behold, the Bridegroom draweth nigh!"
Hear ye the oft-repeated cry?
Go forth into the midnight dim;
for blest are they whom he shall find
with ready heart and watchful mind;
go forth, my soul, to him.

"Behold, the Bridegroom cometh by!"
The call is echoed from the sky:
Go forth, ye servants, watch and wait;
the slothful cannot join his train;
no careless one may entrance gain:
awake, my soul, 'tis late.

O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
we cry to thee with one accord;
to us thy pitying mercy show,
that none may reach the door too late,
when thou shalt enter at the gate
and to thy kingdom go.

"Behold, the Bridegroom draweth near!"
The warning falls on every ear:
the night of dread shall come to all:
Then, O my soul, renew thy light,
and trim thy lamp that it burn bright;
soon shall I hear the call.