

While the World Awaited  
Michael Cullinan, 1996.  
Gustav Holst, 1906.

While the world awaited God's redeeming love  
Came to Joseph, dreaming, Gabriel from above:  
"God would have you take this virgin as your wife,  
For the Child within her is the Lord of Life!"

Lo! the weary Family travels on its way  
To the Holy City for the night to stay.  
Called for an accounting unto Bethlehem  
There would the Messiah bloom from Jesse's stem.

Since there was no place for them to settle down  
They, with beasts of burden, rested on the ground.  
And in David's City early that next morn,  
Clothed in human vesture, Word of God was born.

Jesus Christ, our Saviorborn upon this day:  
Ox and ass surround Your bed of golden hay.  
In the humble stable, manger for Your rest  
Sleep now, infant Jesus, as the world is blest!