

# Hymn Lyrics

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## Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
And usher in the morning;  
O shepherds, shrink not with afright,  
But hear the angel's warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy,  
Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The power of Satan breaking,  
Our peace eternal making.

This night of wonder, night of joy,  
was born the Christ, our brother;  
he comes, not mighty to destroy,  
to bid us love each other.  
How could he quit his kingly state  
for such a world of greed and hate?  
What deep humiliation  
secured the world's salvation!

Come, dearest child, into our hearts,  
and leave your crib behind you!  
Let this be where the new life starts  
for all who seek and find you.  
To you the honor, thanks, and praise,  
for all your gifts this time of grace;  
come, conquer and deliver  
this world, and us, forever.

Verse 1: Johann Rist (1607-1667), 1641; trans. John Troutbeck, ca. 1885;  
Words: verses 2 & 3 by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The 1940 and 1982 Hymnals have a different translation.