

A Virgin unspotted

1

Text anon.

A hymn for Christmas,
attrib. William Knapp (c1698-1768)
Edited by Francis Roads

[♩=144]

Soprano [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 -

Alto

Tenor

8

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 5. To teach us hu - mi - li - ty all this was done, Then learn we hence -

Bass

7

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

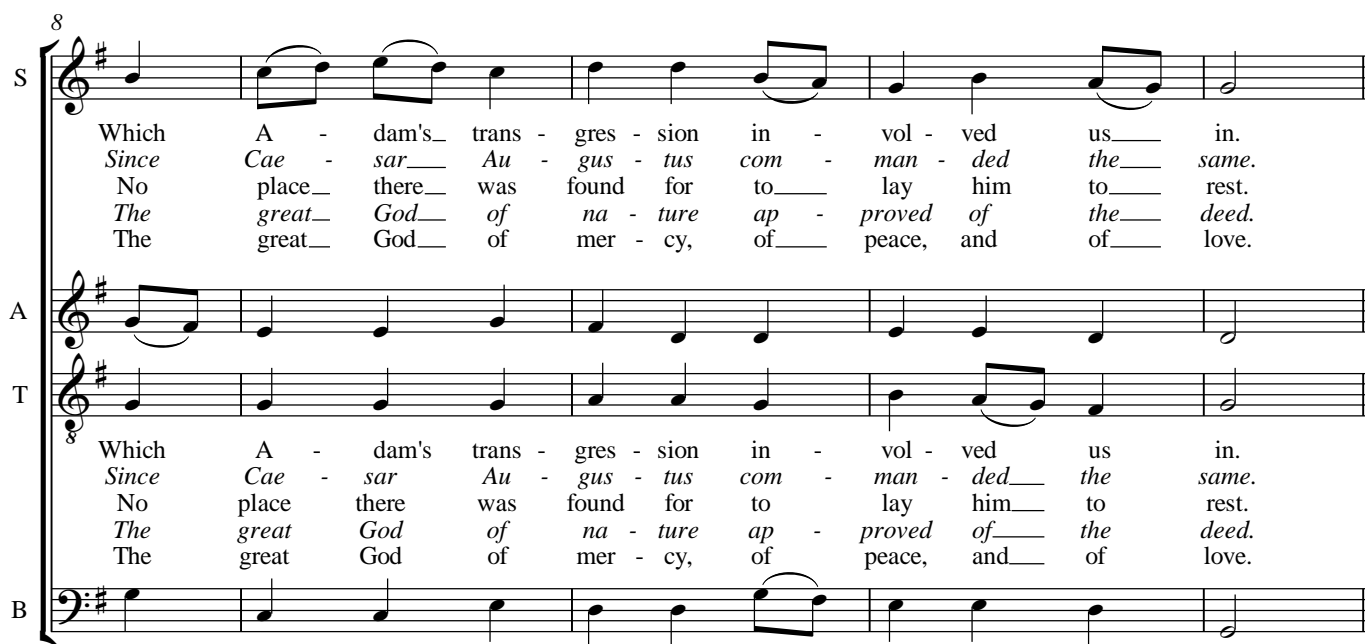
8

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8



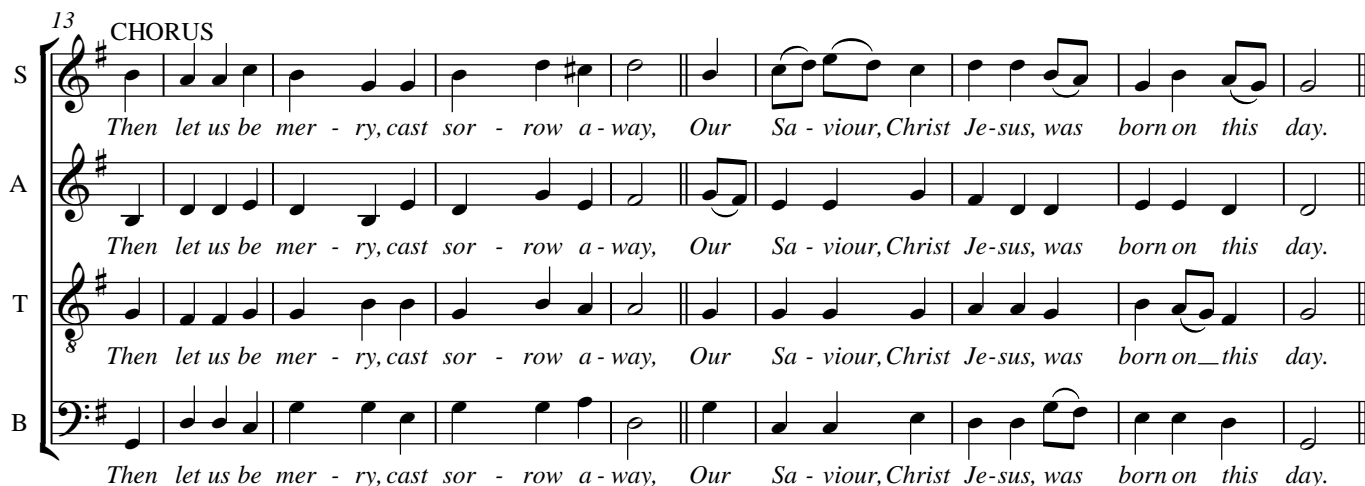
S
Which A - dam's trans - gres - sion in - vol - ved us in.
Since Cae - sar Au - gus - tus com - man - ded the same.
No place there was found for to lay him to rest.
The great God of na - ture ap - proved of the deed.
The great God of mer - cy, of peace, and of love.

A

T

B

13 CHORUS



S
Then let us be mer - ry, cast sor - row a - way, Our Sa - viour, Christ Je - sus, was born on this day.

A
Then let us be mer - ry, cast sor - row a - way, Our Sa - viour, Christ Je - sus, was born on this day.

T
Then let us be mer - ry, cast sor - row a - way, Our Sa - viour, Christ Je - sus, was born on this day.

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

This tune is listed in Temperley's *Hymn Tune Index* (Oxford, 1998) as Tune 1681a, and ascribed there to William Knapp, in whose publication *Anthems for Christmas Day ...* (London, 1743) it is first known to have appeared in print. However, many versions of both text and tune are found in the folk tradition. Knapp is known to have drawn music for his publications from a variety of sources. On these and on stylistic grounds, it appears doubtful to the present editor whether this tune was composed by Knapp, himself, though the harmonisation is probably his. This version is taken from the Colby MSS, IOM.