Hymn for Christmas-day

Charles Wesley

Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1739

According to the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, a 'welkin' is: "the visible regions of the air; the vault of heaven. This is obsolete, unless in poetry." Notice that in 1828 it was already considered an obsolete word!

- Hark how all the welkin rings,
 "Glory to the King of kings,
 Peace on Earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
- 2. Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; Universal Nature, say, "Christ the Lord is born to-day!"
- 3. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
- 4. Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see, Hail the' Incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with men to' appear Jesus, our Immanuel here!
- 5. Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Risen with healing in His wings.

- 6. Mild He lays His glory by, Born - that man no more may die, Born - to raise the sons of earth, Born - to give them second birth.
- 7. Come, Desire of Nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home; Rise, the woman's conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head.
- 8. Now display Thy saving power, Ruin'd nature now restore; Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and our to Thine.
- 9. Adam's likeness, Lord, efface, Stamp Thy image in its place; Second Adam from above, Reinstate us in Thy love.
- 10. Let us Thee, though lost, regain, Thee, the Life, the Inner Man:
 O! to all Thyself impart,
 Form'd in each believing heart.