

**\*Hymn of Praise**

"People Look East"

Hymnal No. 202

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though the earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up strength the seed to. nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing to day: Love, the Star is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

"To A Maid Engaged to Joseph"

Hymnal No. 215

To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.  
"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news,  
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

"For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,  
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,  
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.  
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,  
to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a  
child.  
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."  
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High  
will come upon you shortly, your child will be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.  
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.  
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."