

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.  
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?  
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

*\*May be sung antiphonally.*

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."