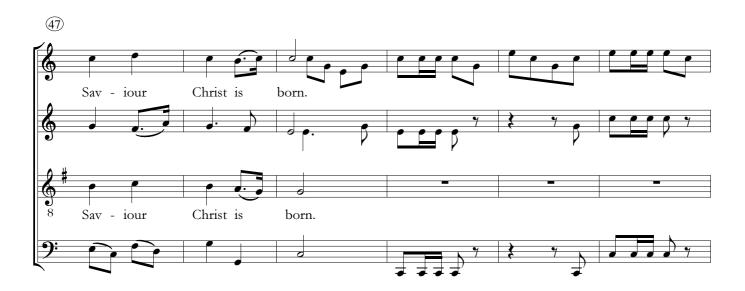
William Gifford, 1804









From Twelve New Psalm Tunes ... with Symphonies and a Thorough Bass ... with Two Favorite Christmas Hymns by Mr W Gifford of South Petherton, Somersetshire. Pub. by J Peck, London, 1804

This carol is also to be found in the Ashburton MS, 2141A/PZ1, in the Devon Record Office. The alternative name comes from the Ashburton MS.

William Gifford died on Friday 7th April 1809 aged 71, and was buried at South Petherton.

The bass notes at Bar 50 are from the Ashburton MS.

1

Rejoice! ye tenants of the earth,
And celebrate your Saviour's birth,
This is the happy morn
On which the angels did impart
These tidings to each longing heart,
Your Saviour Christ is born.

3

And there they found the new born King,
To whom they did their off'rings bring,
And worship at his feet:
While angels flying from their home,
Proclaim that he alone is come,
Salvation to complete.

2

Behold, a meteor shining bright,
Conducts the eastern sages right
To Judah's distant land;
And guides to Bethlehem their road,
Then fixes o'er his low abode,
Directed by his hand.

4

For us these acclamations fly,
For us he's born below to die,
That we may reign above:
Then let us all our voices raise,
And sound abroad our Saviour's praise,
For his unbounded love.