

Hymn of the Week

January 6 • Epiphany of the Lord

That King Before Whose Majesty

Text: Rae E. Whitney.

Music: MAJESTY: David Ashley White, 1996 [tune name suggested by content of the text]
PROSPECT: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Jack Noble White, 1982.

Inspired by eight lines from *The Harp of the Spirit*, by St. Ephraim the Syrian (306–373), translated by Sebastian Brock:

The King before whom the angels
of fire and spirit tremble
lies in the bosom of a girl,
and she cuddles Him as a baby.
The heaven is the throne of His glory
yet He sits on Mary's knees;
the earth too is His footstool,
yet like a baby He crawls beside her.
—Rae E. Whitney

Topics: Christmas, Epiphany, King (God as)

Scriptural References: Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 2:1–12, 5:35; Luke 2:7, 2:51; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5–10; Hebrews 1:7, 5:10, 9:26; Revelation 1:6, 19:16, 21:24

Publications

Fear Not, Little Flock: Vol. I (Selah, 2006)
New Songs of Rejoicing (Selah, 1994)
A Panorama of Christian Hymnody (GIA, 2005)
Sing My Soul: The Hymns of David Ashley White (Selah, 1996)
Sing to Our God New Songs of Rejoicing (Selah, 2000)



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That King Before Whose Majesty

That King, before whose majesty
the fire-bright angels tremble still,
is now a babe in Mary's arms
and subject to a mother's will.

Earth is his footstool, yet her home
is all the universe he sees;
the Lord of Lords—a little child—
explores his world on hands and knees.

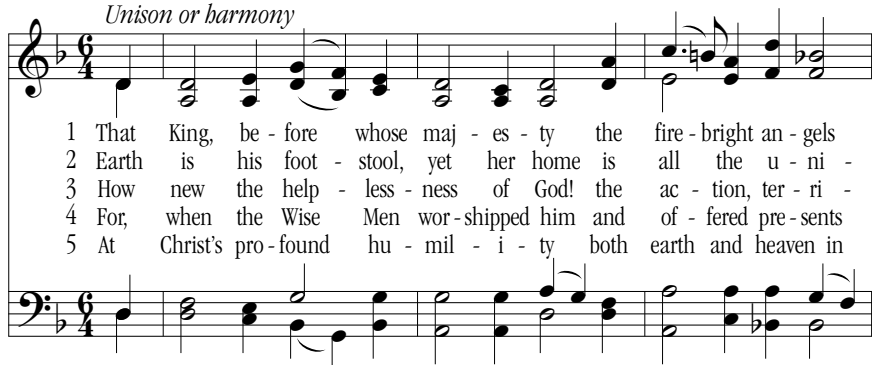
How new the helplessness of God!
the action, terrifying, bold!
and how prophetic were those gifts
of myrrh and frankincense and gold!

For, when the Wise Men worshipped him
and offered presents from the East,
such gifts paid homage to a king
who is both sacrifice and priest.

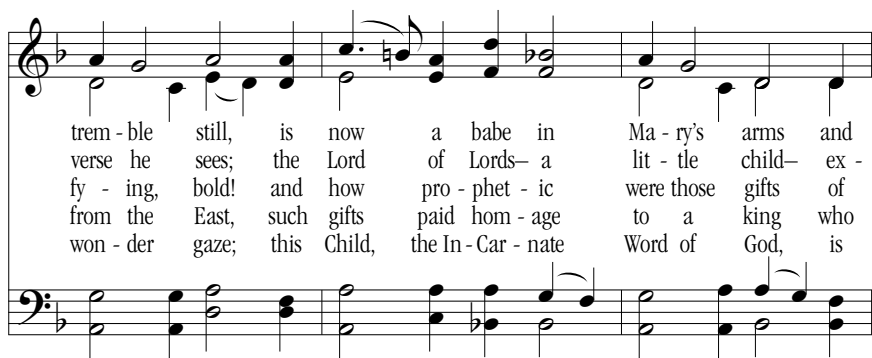
At Christ's profound humility
both earth and heaven in wonder gaze;
this Child, the Incarnate Word of God,
is worthy of all highest praise!

That King Before Whose Majesty

Unison or harmony



1 That King, be - fore whose maj - es - ty the fire - bright an - gels
2 Earth is his foot - stool, yet her home is all the u - ni -
3 How new the help - less - ness of God! the ac - tion, ter - ri -
4 For, when the Wise Men wor - shipped him and of - fered pre - sents
5 At Christ's pro - found hu - mil - i - ty both earth and heaven in



trem - ble still, is now a babe in Ma - ry's arms and
verse he sees; the Lord of Lords— a lit - tle child— ex -
fy - ing, bold! and how pro - phet - ic were those gifts of
from the East, such gifts paid hom - age to a king who
won - der gaze; this Child, the In - Car - nate Word of God, is



sub - ject to a moth - er's will.
plores his world on hands and knees.
myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold!
is both sac - ri - fice and priest.
high - est praise!

Opt. introduction/interlude



Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1986.

Music: David Ashley White, 1996.

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LM
MAJESTY

That King Before Whose Majesty

Unison

Capo 1 B7 E A/E E A/E C#m

1 That King, be - fore whose maj - es - ty the fire - bright
 2 Earth is his foot - stool, yet her home is all the
 3 How new the help - less - ness of God! The ac - tion,
 4 For, when the Wise Men wor - shipped him and of - fered
 5 At Christ's pro - found hu - mil - i - ty both earth and

A B7 E G#m C#m

an - gels trem - ble still, is now a babe in
 u - ni - verse he sees; the Lord of Lords— a
 ter - ri - fy - ing, bold! And how pro - phet - ic
 pres - ents from the East, such gifts paid hom - age
 heaven in won - der gaze; this Child, the In - car - nate

A B7 E A B7 E

Mar - y's arms, and sub - ject to a moth - er's will.
 lit - tle child— ex - plores his world on hands and knees.
 were those gifts of myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold!
 to a king who is both sac - ri - fice and priest.
 Word of God, is wor - thy of all high - est praise!

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LM
PROSPECT

That King Before Whose Majesty



1 That King, be - fore whose maj - es - ty the fire - bright
 2 Earth is his foot - stool, yet her home is all the
 3 How new the help - less - ness of God! The ac - tion,
 4 For, when the Wise Men wor - shipped him and of - fered
 5 At Christ's pro - found hu - mil - i - ty both earth and



an - gels trem - ble still, is now a babe in
 u - ni - verse he sees; the Lord of Lords— a
 ter - ri - fy - ing, bold! And how pro - phet - ic
 pres - ents from the East, such gifts paid hom - age
 heaven in won - der gaze; this Child, the In - car - nate



Mar - y's arms, and sub - ject to a moth - er's will.
 lit - tle child— ex - plores his world on hands and knees.
 were those gifts of myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold!
 to a king who is both sac - ri - fice and priest.
 Word of God, is wor - thy of all high - est praise!