

EARTH was waiting, spent and restless,
With a mingled hope and fear;
And the faithful few were sighing,
‘Surely, Lord, the day is near;
The Desire of all the nations,
It is time He should appear.’

- 2 In the sacred courts of Zion,
Where the Lord had His abode,
There the money-changers trafficked,
And the sheep and oxen trod;
And the world by earthly wisdom
Knew not either Lord or God.
- 3 Then the Spirit of the Highest
On a virgin meek came down,
And He burdened her with blessing,
And He pained her with renown;
For she bare the Lord’s Anointed,
For His cross and for His crown.
- 4 Earth for Him had groaned and travailed
Since the ages first began;
For in Him was hid the secret
That through all the ages ran—
Son of Promise, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

William Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908