

'T WAS with an everlasting love
That God His own elect embraced,
Before He made the worlds above,
Or earth in her position placed.

- 2 Long before sun's first brilliant ray
Primeval shades of darkness drove,
Saints in His arms of purpose lay,
Loved with an everlasting love.
- 3 Then, in His wonderful decrees,
Christ and His Church appeared as one:
Her sin, by imputation, His,
While she in spotless splendour shone.
- 4 Such love! how high its glories swell,
How great, immutable, and free!
Millions of sins, deserving hell,
Were swallowed up, no more to be!
- 5 Loved, when a wretch defiled with sin,
At war with Heaven, in league with hell,
A slave to every lust obscene,
Who, living, lived but to rebel.
- 6 Believing, here my comfort stands,
Salvation undeserved and free!
Such everlasting love demands
An everlasting song from me.

John Kent, 1766-1843