Once again, O blessed time

Christmas traditional

Smoothly

1. Once again, O blessed time, Thankful hearts embrace thee; If we lost thy festal chime, What could e'er replace thee? What could e'er replace thee? Change will darken many a day, Many a bond dissemble; Many a joy shall pass away, But the "Great Joy" never! But the "Great Joy" never! But the "Great Joy" never!
2. Once again the Holy Night
   Breathes its blessing tender,
   Once again the Manger Light
   Sheds its gentle splendour;
   Oh! Could tongues by Angels taught
   Speak our exultation
   In the Virgin’s Child that brought
   All mankind Salvation?

3. Welcome Thou to souls athirst,
   Fount of endless pleasure:
   Gates of Hell may do their worst,
   While we clasp our Treasure:
   Welcome, though an age like this
   Puts Thy Name on trial,
   And the Truth that makes our bliss
   Pleads against denial!

4. Yea, if others stand apart,
   We will press the nearer;
   Yea, O best fraternal Heart,
   We will hold Thee dearer:
   Faithful lips shall answer thus
   To all faithless scorning,
   “Jesus Christ is God with us,
   Born on Christmas morning.”

5. So we yield Thee all we can,
   Worship, thanks, and blessing:
   Thee true God, and Thee true Man,
   On our knees confessing;
   While Thy Birth-day morn we greet
   With our best devotion,
   Bathe us, O most true and sweet!
   In Thy Mercy’s ocean.