

Once again, O blessed time

Christmas traditional

Smoothly
mf

1. Once a-gain, O bless-ed time, Thank-ful hearts em - brace thee; If we lost thy

6

fes - tal chime, What could e'er re-place thee? What could e'er re-

10

p *pp*

- place thee? Change will dark-en many a day, Many a bond dis - sev - er;

15

cresc. *f* *ff*

Many a joy shall pass a - way, But the "Great Joy" nev - er! But the "Great Joy" nev - er!

20

dim.

nev - er But the "Great Joy" nev - er!

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.