



### The First Christmas

Four thousand years earth waited,  
Four thousand years men prayed,  
Four thousand years the nations sighed  
That their King so long delayed.

But still the Saviour tarried,  
Within His father's home;  
And the nations wept and wondered why  
The promised had not come.

At last earth's hope was granted,  
And God was a Child of earth;  
And a thousand angels chanted  
The lowly midnight birth.

Ah! Bethlehem was grander  
That hour than paradise;  
And the light of earth that night eclipsed  
The splendors of the skies.

Then let us sing the Anthem  
The angels once did sing;  
Until the music of love and praise,  
O'er whole wide world will ring.

—Father Ryan