

Christian Worship Hymn 38: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Please remember that songs are interpreted much differently than sermons or liturgy. It is important to keep the rhythm of the music when interpreting songs. Just as English sung hymns must change their word order for their stanzas to rhyme and therefore may 'sound' strange if strictly spoken; signed hymns must also at times change their sign order to keep the proper rhythm of the song and may 'look' strange if strictly signed. Rhythm is very important.

1. From heaven above to earth I come To bear good news to every home
From heaven *come earth / announce good news all people

Glad tidings of great joy I bring Whereof I now will say and sing
Happy news wonderful joy announce / now *tell sing

2. To you this night is born a child Of Mary chosen virgin mild
For *you tonight born baby / mother Mary choose virgin gentle

This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth
Baby humble born / will become joy all earth

3. This is the Christ our God most high Who hears your sad and bitter cry
True Christ our God heaven / listen *your sad bitter cry

He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free
*Himself *your Savior / all *your sins release free

4. He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below
Will gifts *give-you / prepare (God) all people

That in his kingdom bright and fair You may with us his glory share
In heaven His kingdom bright beautiful / *You *together glory share

5. These are the signs which you shall mark The swaddling clothes and manger dark
Show-you show-you notice / wrap-around clothes manger darkness

There you will find the infant laid By whom the heavens and earth were made
There find baby lay / heaven and earth He made

6. How glad we'll be to find it so Then with the shepherds let us go
True happy we find true / with shepherds we all go

To see what God for us has done In sending us his own dear Son
See God do for us / *send himself dear son

7. Come here my friends lift up your eyes And see what in the manger lies
Come <full hand> friends *look-up / Look-inside manger

Who is this child so young and fair It is the Christchild lying there
Who baby young beautiful / true Christ baby there

8. Welcome to earth O noble Guest Through whom the sinful world is blest
Welcome earth true king guest / through you sin world becomes bless

You came to share my misery That you might share your joy with me
*come share my misery / You share joy with me

9. Ah Lord though you created all How weak you are so poor and small
I-see Lord You create all / Weak you poor small

That you should choose to lay your head Where lowly cattle lately fed
You choose head lay-down / place cow recent eat

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare
If earth one thousand more beautiful / with gold and precious <treasure>

It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all
Earth still poor small bed for Lord all Lord

11. Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
Instead-of soft smooth / You have straw rough

On which as King so rich and great To be enthroned in royal state
Lay-down King rich wonderful / must encircle with important

12. And so it pleases you to see This simple truth revealed to me
You happy / simple truth *show-me

That all the world's wealth honor might Are weak and worthless in your sight
All world rich honor power / all weak worthless you look-down

13. Ah dearest Jesus holy Child Prepare a bed soft undefiled
I-see dear Jesus holy baby / prepare bed soft perfect

Within my heart made clean and new A quiet chamber kept for you
Inside my heart clean new / quiet room for you

14. My heart for very long must leap My lips no more can silence keep
My heart long time jump-for-joy must / my mouth can't quiet can't

I too must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song
Myself also sing joy / sweet old <long-ago> baby song

15. Glory to God in highest heaven Who unto us his Son has given
Glory to God in heaven / *He to us son gave

While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth
Same-time angel sing humble happy / Happy new year all earth

- Words with hyphenation are ASL signs.
- Words in parentheses may or may not be signed, depending on your audience. If they are more English, you may want to add the words.
- Words in <> are definitions for the previous word as the previous word has more than one sign.
- Words in quotation marks are words to be dramatized as if you are the speaker.
- Words with asterisks should be signed as a directional sign.