

Hymns Into Prose: Example Two Continued

The second verse:

*From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
[refrain]*

Here is a possible rendering of the second verse in prose:

**A blessed angel came down from God our Father in heaven,
and brought the good news of the birth in Bethlehem of our Lord Jesus the son of God to
certain shepherds who were minding their flocks on the hillside. What wonderful, joyous,
comforting news!**

The original third verse:

*"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright:
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.
[Refrain]*

And here is how the third verse might come out in prose:

**The angel said to the shepherds, "do not be afraid and let nothing frighten you. On this day
a pure young virgin has given birth to our Saviour, who will free all who believe in him
from Satan's wrath and power." What wonderful, joyous, comforting news!**

The original fourth verse:

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity [brotherhood] each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace.
[Refrain]*

A possible prose version of the fourth verse:

Now all you within this place sing praises to the Lord and embrace each other with true love and charity [brotherhood]. For this holy tide of Christmas brings us all God's wonderful, redeeming grace. What wonderful, joyous, comforting news!

You can try this with any hymn or carol you like, and my hope is that you will find it enriching and rewarding. Blessings!

Robin Hyde