

The Gospel of Matthew 11.2-11

Music : WOLVERCOTE

‘God’s kingdom at our borders, with judgement at the gate,
salvation poised and ready: no need for further wait;
unchaining those in bondage, releasing all tied down ... ‘
the prophet from his prison cries, ‘Soon the Christ will come;

‘with no delay, Messiah love’s judgement will begin,
for devils cruel, defiant, oppress the world with sin.’
So: ‘Jesus, will you save us? or must we wait some more?’
the prophet in his prison cries out in anguish sore.

Behold, blind persons seeing! Behold, lame rise and walk!
Outcasts affirmed in being! Deaf-mutes both hear, and talk!
Behold, the poor find blessing! and dead souls wake from rest,
vast mercies all confessing, for Christ is in our midst!

Now let each voice cry ‘Glory!’, rejoice that God, with love,
breathes in each person’s story, their fears far to remove.
See, friends: like mist dispersing, hell’s vapours cease to blight,
where faith, hope, love advancing shine forth in heavenly light.

There is no greater mortal than prophet-prisoner, John,
for he prepared the royal way, baptised heaven’s well-loved Son...
Dear God, whose mercy judges all, you lay salvation’s trail,
where in good time Christ mends, bears all,
makes whole by cross and nail.

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