

---

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. KAVIN'S

---

So dawns the awaited hour  
When the great cosmic power  
Of love was first declared by Christ; so too  
To-day we keep in mind  
His name who taught mankind  
That open secret old, yet ever new, —

Commemorate his birth  
Who loved the kindly earth,  
Was gentle, strong, compassionate, humane,  
And tolerant and wise  
And glad, — the very guise  
And height of manhood not to lose again.

Shall we not then forego  
Lavish perfunctory show,  
The burdensome display, the empty gift,  
That we may have to give  
To every soul alive  
Of love's illumination, cheer, and lift?