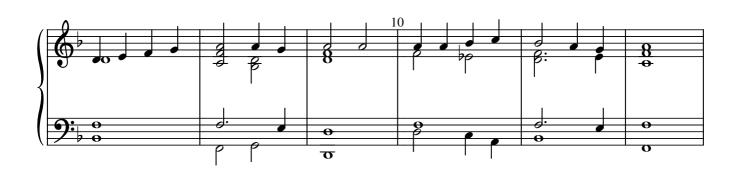
## Earth was waiting, spent and restless

French Traditional Carol Melody

Picardy 87.87.87







Earth was waiting, spent and restless, with a mingled hope and fear; and the faithful few were sighing, 'Surely, Lord, the day is near; the desire of all the nations, it is time he should appear.'

Still the gods were in their temples, but the ancient faith had fled; and the priests stood by their altars only for a piece of bread; and the oracles were silent, and the prophets all were dead.

In sacred courts of Zion, where the Lord had his abode, there the money-changers trafficked, and the sheep and oxen trod; and the world, because of wisdom, knew not either Lord or God.

Then the Spirit of the Highest on a virgin meek came down, and he burdened her with blessing, and he pained her with renown; for she bore the Lord's anointed, for his cross and for his crown.

Earth for him had groaned and travailed since the ages first began; for in him was hid the secret that through all the ages ran-Son of Mary, Son of David, Son of God, and Son of Man.

W.C. Smith