

Psalm 19 - Addison

THE spacious firmament on high,
 With all the blue ethereal sky,
 And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
 Their Great Original proclaim.

2 The unwearied sun, from day to day,
 Does his creator's power display,
 And publishes to every land
 The work of an Almighty Hand.

3 Soon as the evening shades prevail,
 The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
 And nightly to the listening earth
 Repeats the story of her birth;

4 While all the stars that round her burn,
 And all the planets in their turn,
 Confirm the tidings as they roll,
 And spread the truth from pole to pole.

5 What though in solemn silence all
 Move round the dark terrestrial ball;
 What though no real voice nor sound
 Amid their radiant orbs be found;

6 In reason's ear they all rejoice,
 And utter forth a glorious voice;
 For ever singing as they shine,
 "The Hand that made us is divine."

Joseph Addison (1672 - 1719) paraphrased half a dozen Psalms and published them in *The Spectator* in 1712. His Psalm 19 is the best known and is still in use today. It is a fine example of the poetry of its period, drawing on contemporary scientific thought, while recalling the theories of antiquity. OSSETT is one of a small group of tunes composed by Accepted ("Sept") Widdop (c.1750 - 1801), a clothworker who came from the Halifax area. To date, nothing more is known about the composer, or the origins of the tune. This LM setting is from *WHB 1877*.

Alternative tunes:

For Addison's version - 4: CREATION, DUKE STREET.