

**“An Easter Gift” by Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844 - 1889**

Break the box and shed the nard;  
Stop not now to count the cost;  
Hither bring pearl, opal, sard;  
Reck not what the poor have lost;  
Upon Christ throw all away:  
Know ye, this is Easter Day.

Build His church and deck His shrine,  
Empty though it be on earth;  
Ye have kept your choicest wine—  
Let it flow for heavenly mirth;  
Pluck the harp and breathe the horn:  
Know ye not 'tis Easter morn?

Gather gladness from the skies;  
Take a lesson from the ground;  
Flowers do open their heavenward eyes  
And a Spring-time joy have found;  
Earth throws Winter's robes away,  
Decks herself for Easter Day.

Beauty now for ashes wear,  
Perfumes for the garb of woe,  
Chaplets for disheveled hair,  
Dances for sad footsteps slow;  
Open wide your hearts that they  
Let in joy this Easter Day.

Seek God's house in happy throng;  
Crowded let His table be;  
Mingle praises, prayer, and song,  
Singing to the Trinity.  
Henceforth let your souls always  
Make each morn an Easter Day!

*Gerard Manley Hopkins is considered to be one of the greatest poets of the Victorian era. His family encouraged his artistic talents when he was a youth in Essex, England. However, Hopkins became estranged from his Protestant family when he converted to Roman Catholicism, under the leader of the Oxford converts, John Henry Newman. Newman received him into the Roman Catholic Church on October 21, 1866.*