



- 2. Love on earth her lonely vigil keeping, Love in heaven that rests or slumbers not, – peace, my anxious heart! though thou wert sleeping Love Divine has ne'er its charge forgot.
- 3. And for you, my brightest earthly flowers, you, my children, Love Divine has cared; sleep, belovèd ones! through these dark hours angels by your pillow watch and guard.
- 4. Here the wingèd messengers of Heaven, as beheld at Bethel, come and go; angel guardians, whom the Lord has given to each little one while here below.
- 5. Do I feel their pinions, gently waving? Are they watching me, too, from above? Ah! my faith looks higher, humbly craving blessings greater far than angel-love.
- 6. Thou, O Saviour, when on earth residing, never didst thou scorn a mother's prayer; faith may still behold thee here abiding, still commend her treasures to thy care.
- 7. Thine they are, from thee did I receive them, see, again I lay them on thy breast; never may the Tempter's art deceive them, make them in thyself for ever blessed!

- 8. Were not all my hope on thee reposing, thou, sole refuge for a sinner's fears, then, the future all its ills disclosing, I could give my children only tears.
- 9. From their earthly parents they inherit only sin and weakness, grief and pain; give them, Lord, thine all-sufficient merit, spiritual birth and life again.
- 10. Give them the new name, and safely write them in thy book, to share thy children's lot;Earth may separate do thou unite them in the bonds which Death dissolveth not.
- 11. By thy rod and staff in mercy lead them in the footsteps of thy flock below, till, 'mid heavenly pastures thou shalt feed them where the streams of life eternal flow.
- 12. Sleep, my darlings, in the Shepherd's keeping!
  Peace, my heart! His promise stands for aye!
  Swift it flies, our night of toil and weeping,
  soon shall dawn the everlasting day!