

John Mason Neale
(1818-66)

O happy band of pilgrims

Joseph Barnby
(1838-96)

1 O happy band of pilgrims,
If onward ye will tread
With Jesus as your Fellow
To Jesus as your Head!

2 O happy if ye labour
As Jesus did for men;
O happy if ye hunger
As Jesus hungered then!

3 The cross that Jesus carried
He carried as your due;
The crown that Jesus weareth,
He weareth it for you.

4 The faith by which ye see him,
The hope in which ye yearn,
The love that through all troubles
To him alone will turn,

5 What are they but forerunners
To lead you to his sight?
What are they save the effluence
Of uncreated light?

6 The trials that beset you,
The sorrows ye endure,
The manifold temptations
That death alone can cure,

7 What are they but his jewels
Of right celestial worth?
What are they but the ladder
Set up to heaven on earth?

8 O happy band of pilgrims,
Look upward to the skies,
Where such a light affliction
Shall win you such a prize!