

*I here preserve in faulty rhyme
A homily I thought sublime*

King Herod heard of Christ's birth one day
That in Bethlehem the new king lay.
He sent his soldiers the king to slay,
But He Wasn't There.

At twelve years of age we find Him again
discussing truth with the Wisdom men,
Mary looked for Him among the kin
She thought that was where He should
have been,
But He Wasn't There.

If we are to find Him, where will we look?
Of course, He'll be in the Holy Book.
But the Canon is closed; Christ onward goes.
He Isn't There.

It came to me with great elation ~
I knew the place of His occupation!
I sought Him in my denomination.
He Wasn't There.

Now in our church He'll sure abide
So we seek Him there our way to guide,
But He Isn't There.

I said without fear of contradiction
"Christ is encased in my tradition,"
Sought His guidance on a grave decision
And He Wasn't There.

We bind Him up in our intellect;
We will look Him up when we so elect
So we later see His way to detect,
But He Isn't There.

My special interest is holy and just
All other concerns are ashes and dust.
So I sought Him there to confirm my trust
But He Wasn't There.

Since the forces of evil our
standards storm
And Satan seeks to upset our norm,
I looked for Him in social reform.
He Wasn't There.

Since Jesus lives in the present tense
I knew I'd find Him in current events.
So I sought Him there with confidence.
He Wasn't There.

On the transfigure Mount, Peter
sought to stay
But His Lord and Master said Him "Nay"
There's work to do ~ a ransom to pay.
He Didn't Stay There.

He was crucified and laid away
Then early after the Sabbath Day
Mary sought Him where she thought He lay.
He Wasn't There.

In your doctrine and your dogma Him you
will not see.
From such restrictions He'll eternally be free,
But your eyes can be opened that
you may see He is on ahead saying,
"Follow Me!"
You Can Find Him There.

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Rev. James P. Russell
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