

# Come, Labor On



1. Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har-vest plain,
2. Come, la-bor on. The en - e - my is watch-ing night and day,
3. Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom-y doubts and faith-less fear!
4. Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call-ing an-gels can-not share:
5. Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,



while all a-round us waves the gold-en grain? And to each ser- vant  
to sow the tares, to snatch the seed a - way; while we in sleep our  
No arm so weak but may do ser-vice here: by fee-blest a - gents  
to young and old the Gos-pel glad-ness bear. Re-deem the time; its  
till the long sha-dows o'er our path-way lie, and a glad sound comes



does the Mas-ter say, "Go work to - day."  
du - ty have for - got, he slum - bered — not.  
may our God ful - fill his right - eous — will.  
hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws — nigh.  
with the set-ting sun: — "Ser - vants, well done."

Stanza 1: Matt 9:37; John 4:35; Matt 21:28 | **golden grain**: the color indicates readiness for harvest, hence the color *harvest gold*.

Stanza 2: Matt 13:24ff; Luke 8:12 | **tares**: problematic weeds that resemble wheat in the early stages

Stanza 3: Matt 14:31; 1 Cor 1:26ff; 2 Cor 12:9

Stanza 4: Phil 3:14 (KJV); Matt 28:19; Eph 5:16 (esp. KJV); John 9:4

Stanza 5: Isaiah 62:6-7; Matt 25:23 | **glows the western sky**: refers to sunset, particularly one which suggests fair weather to come (see Matt. 16:2) | *Day* and *night* are metaphors for our earthly life and death. | **long shadows**: expression from Jer 6:4 -NS

Words: 1859 | Jane Borthwick (1813-1897)

Music: *Ora Labora*, 1918 | T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953), longtime organist at St Thomas Church, NYC