6. ST. LUKE (ST. NATHANIEL) (C.M.)

Published in “Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship”, Nisbet, 1867. Another edition, 1872. The tune was included in “Church Hymns with Tunes”, S.P.C.K., 1874, where the name was changed from “St. Luke” to “St. Nathaniel”, presumably because the collection included Jeremiah Clarke’s “St. Luke”.

1 God moves in a mysterious way
   His wonders to perform;
   He plants His footsteps in the sea,
   And rides upon the storm.

2 Deep in unfathomable mines
   Of never-failing skill
   He treasures up His bright designs,
   And works His sovereign will.

3 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
   The clouds ye so much dread
   Are big with mercy, and will break
   In blessings on your head.

4 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
   But trust Him for His grace;
   Behind a frowning providence
   He hides a smiling face.

5 His purposes will ripen fast,
   Unfolding every hour:
   The bud may have a bitter taste,
   But sweet will be the flower.

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err,
   And scan His work in vain;
   God is his own interpreter,
   And He will make it plain. Amen.

William Cowper, 1731 - 1800.