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The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth-le-

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
came from coun-try far; to seek for a king was their
hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
great light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
in-tent, and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.
and stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*), and the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots.

born is the King of Is-ra-el.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of
their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought
frankincense. *Refrain*

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple 1

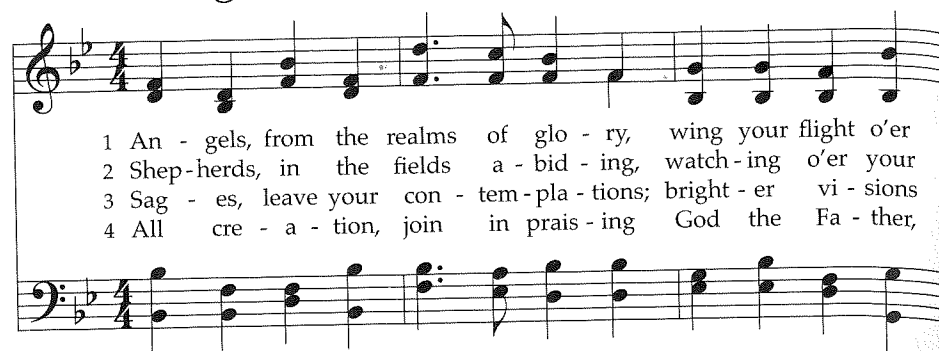
1 Mar-y and Jo-seph came to the tem-ple brought the
2 An-na had prayed there, wid-owed, long wait-ing, wor-ship
3 Sim-e-on sings now: God prof-fers bless-ing, bril-liant

Je-sus, of-fered him there. Peo-ple were wait-ing
God by day and by night. Now she is prais-ing
gild-ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark-ness

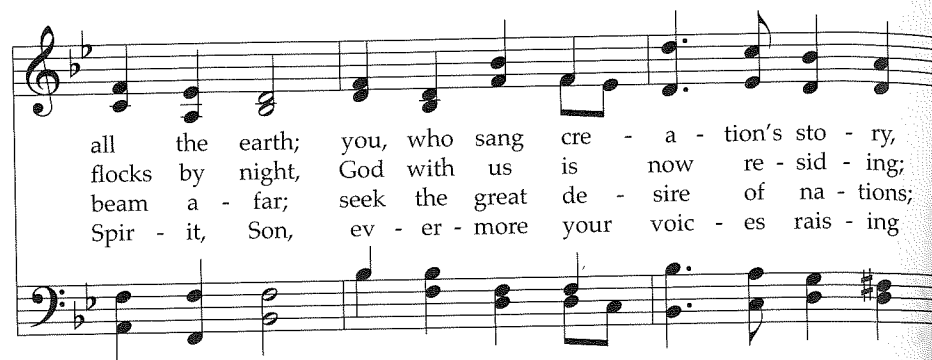
want-ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so-lace for
filled with e-la-tion: here is God's prom-ise, Christ is her
nev-er ex-tin-guished, Light of all na-tions, light up our

This text retells the story in Luke 2:22-39, usually called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which took place forty days after his birth. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child encounter there two devout people, Simeon and Anna, who identify this baby as the promised Messiah.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



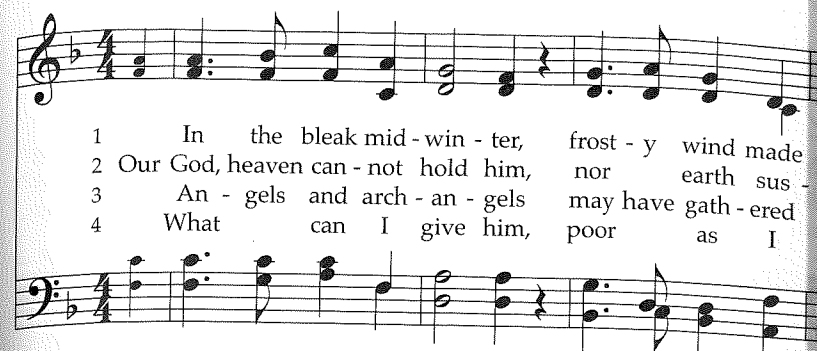
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:



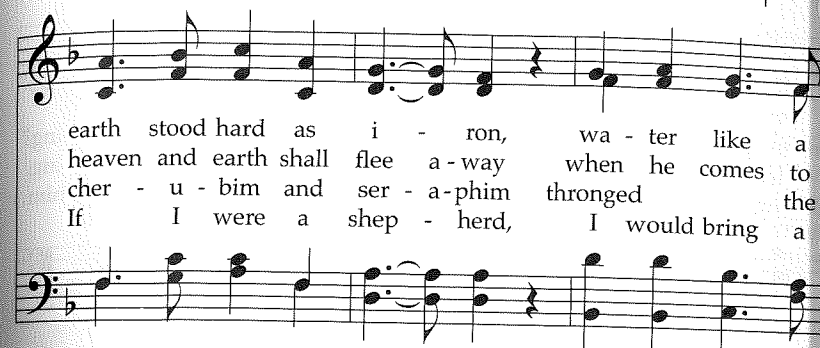
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author
 Christian Church in

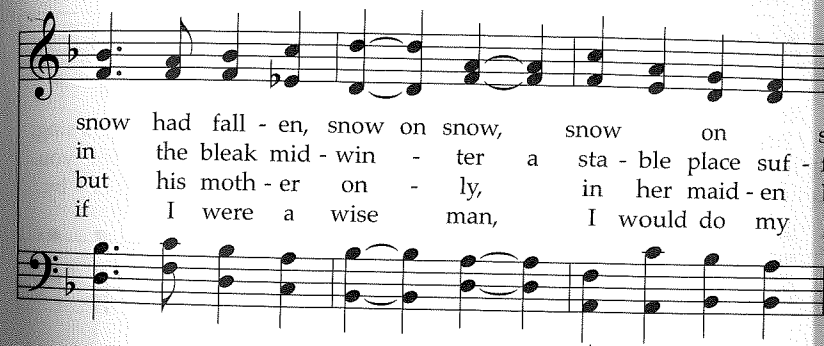
In the Bleak Midwinter



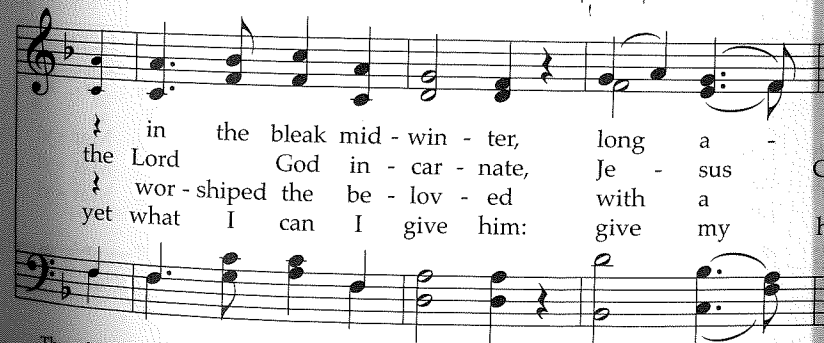
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus -
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered
 4 What can I give him, poor as I



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf -
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en
 if I were a wise man, I would do my



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a -
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a
 yet what I can I give him: give my

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using
 surroundings as a means of

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries as the "Three Kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C)
 D Bm A D G D A D

1 What star is this, with beams so bright,
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed,
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays,
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C)
 D A D G D

love - ly than the noon - day light?
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed";
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys
 pels us on to seek your face,

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C)
 Bm E7 A D G D

sent to an - nounce a new - born king,
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand
 urg - es them, with ten - der might,
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D

ti - dings of our God to bri
 read in heaven the Lord's com - ma
 seek the giv - er of the lig
 guid - ance of your light to us

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.