

CHRISTMAS

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The First Nowell

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-12

Traditional English carol; alt.

*Descant*

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,  
 2 They looked a - bove and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star shone bright in the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,  
 three sag - es came from coun - try far,  
 o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,  
 and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

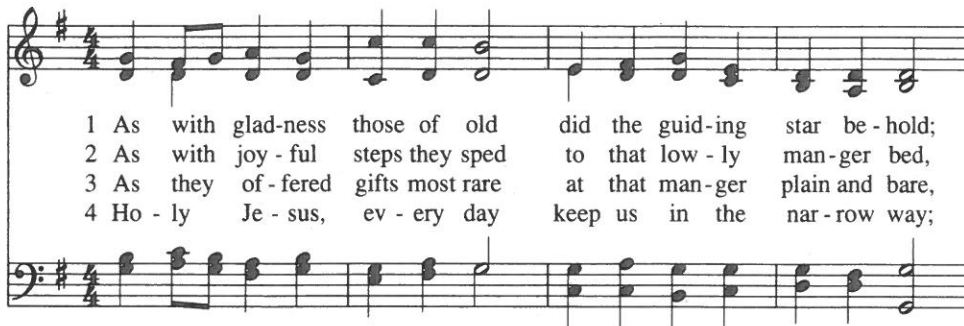
In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 To seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 And there it did both stop and stay,  
 They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,

# As with Gladness Those of Old

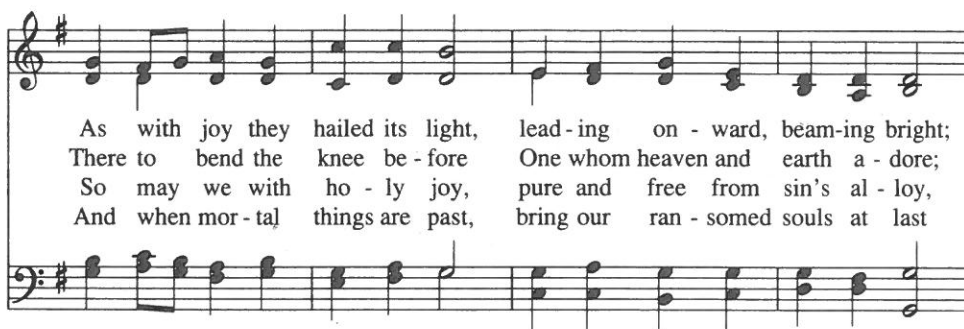
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William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

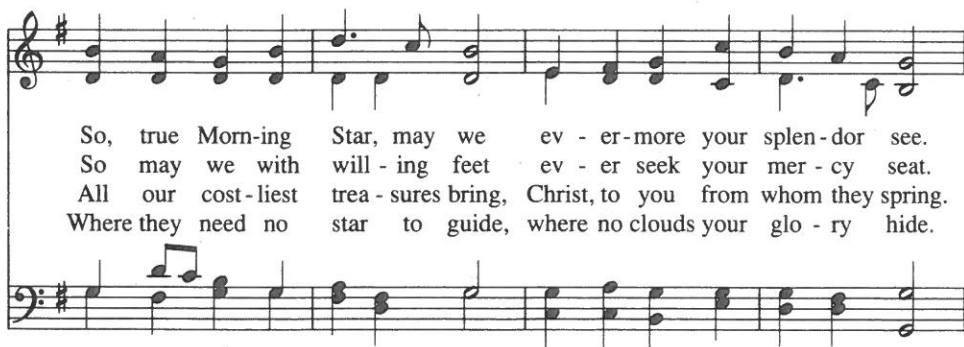
Matt. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,  
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be-fore One whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
So may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
And when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.  
So may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.  
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.  
Conrad Kocher, 1838  
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

# Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
Seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:  
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend - ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

*James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper Sheffield Iris, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
Henry T. Smart, 1867