

## Brightest and Best

Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

Matt. 2:9-11; Luke 2:10-14

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.  
God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;  
fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,  
vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta (including all of India), where he died of exhaustion at age forty-three. His Hymns (1827) was the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year.

Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.  
James P. Harding, 1892  
The New Psalms and Hymns, Richmond, Va., 1901  
Alternate setting: WALKER

# 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

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12, 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;  
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;  
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;  
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.  
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

*Refrain*

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the

dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by

day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
 George D. Elderkin  
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993