

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol

Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.  
St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heavenly song.  
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.  
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7**Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.  
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.  
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

*Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.*

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.  
 Lewis H. Redner, 1868  
 Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN

# Away in a Manger

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Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.

Luke 2:7

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. Chords F, Bb, and F are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are:

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. Chords C7 and F are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are:

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The  
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I  
by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. Chords F, Bb, and F are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are:

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the  
love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and  
all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. Chords C7, F, Bb, C7, and F are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are:

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
stay by my side un - til night turns to day.  
fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

*This anonymous United States carol is often misattributed to Luther. The poem first appeared in a Lutheran hymnal for schools and families. Though he never credited himself with it, the tune most likely was composed by Murray.*

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.  
(MÜLLER)

Attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887

Luke 2:10-11, 25-32; 24:46-51;  
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Isa. 60:19-20

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.

Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"

*This hymn by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, is firmly wedded to Felix Mendelssohn's music. Composed for the four hundredth anniversary of the invention of printing, the music was adapted to this hymn fifteen years later.*

Tune: MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with refrain  
From Felix Mendelssohn's "Festgesang," 1840  
Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855

# Adeste Fideles

(O Come, All You Faithful)

Luke 2:11-15; John 1:14

Latin, 18th century; attrib. to John Francis Wade  
Transl. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others; alt.

1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -  
1 O come, all you faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God of true God . . . Light of true Light . . .  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 A - men, Lord, we greet you, born this hap - py morn - ing;

ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.  
come now, O come now to Beth - le - hem.  
born of the Vir - gin's womb in hu - man form;  
sing, all you mes - sen - gers of heaven - ly love:  
Je - sus to you shall all glo - ry be given;

Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.  
Come and be - hold the rul - er of all an - gels:  
Tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:  
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est":  
Word of our God . . . now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come in ad - o - ra - tion, O come in ad - o - ra - tion,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.  
O come in ad - o - ra - tion: Christ is Lord!

# Silent Night, Holy Night

#134

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Transl. John F. Young, c. 1863; alt.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Child of God, love's pure light,

Round you vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;  
Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face bring the dawn of re - deem - ing grace;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born, Christ, the Sav - ior is born.  
Je - sus, Christ, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Christ, at Thy birth.

*This beloved carol was created when, the day before Christmas, the organ broke down in an Alpine village church. The priest, Joseph Mohr, gave a new poem to the organist, Franz Gruber, to be set to music. Gruber composed the music on the guitar, and it was sung with guitar on Christmas.*

Tune: STILLE NACHT Irr.  
Franz Gruber, 1818

# Joy to the World!

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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its  
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,  
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love. •

heaven and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy,  
won - ders of God's love,

Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."

Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased  
Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a  
hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.  
Lowell Mason, 1836