

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his 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
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

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 him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

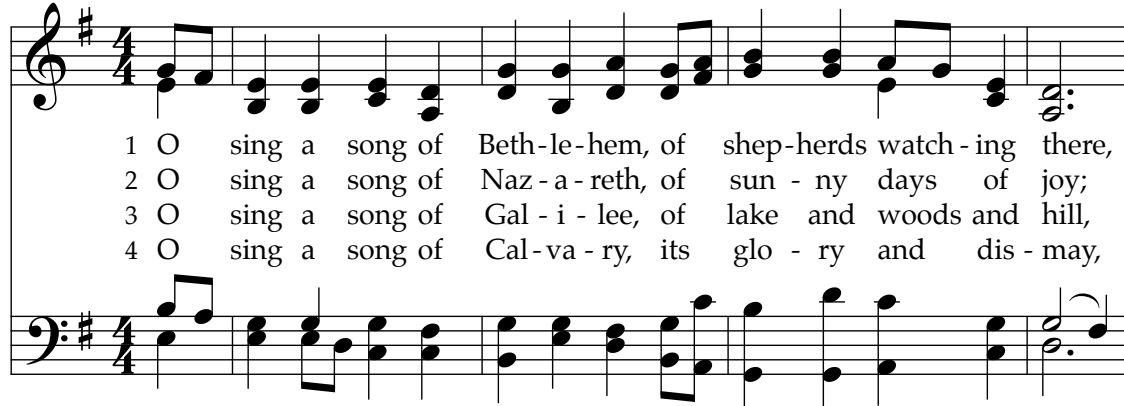
This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

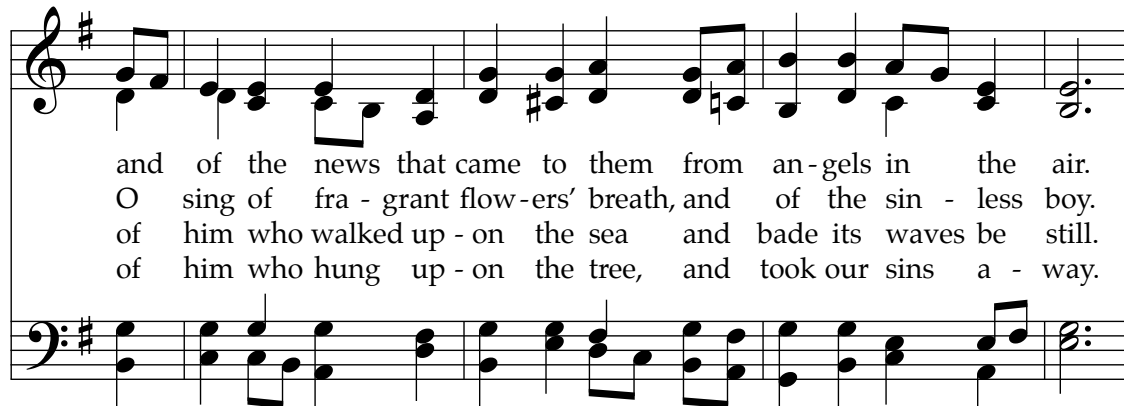
The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH". It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic and rhythmic foundation, featuring chords and moving lines in both hands.

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

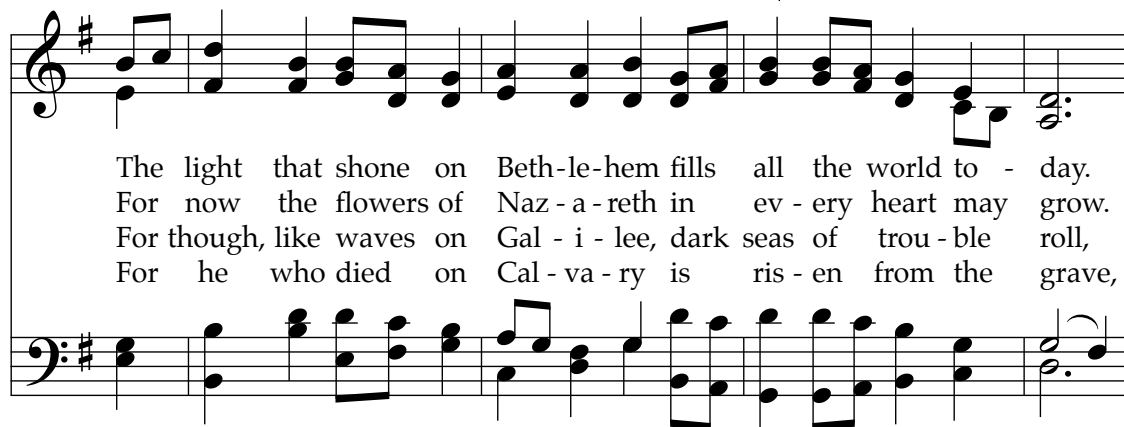
159 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem



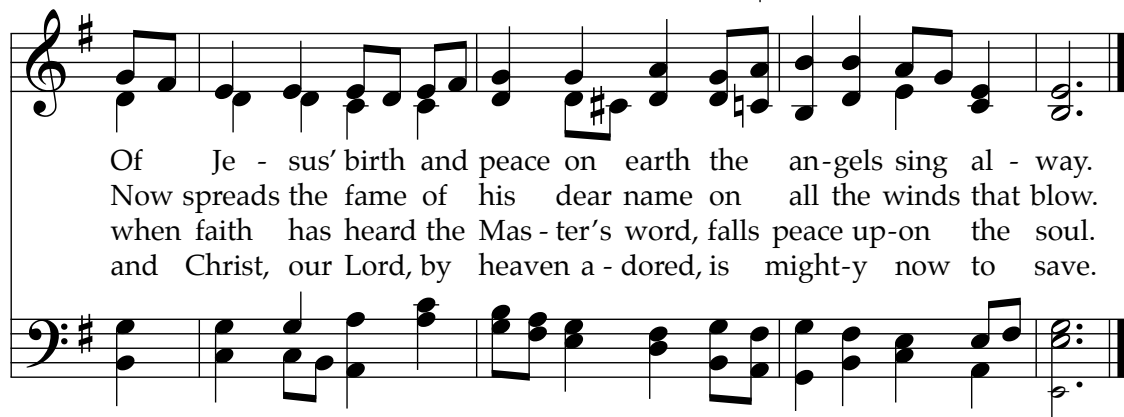
1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,
 2 O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, of sun-ny days of joy;
 3 O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, of lake and woods and hill,
 4 O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, its glo-ry and dis-may,



and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air.
 O sing of fra-grant flow-ers' breath, and of the sin-less boy.
 of him who walked up-on the sea and bade its waves be still.
 of him who hung up-on the tree, and took our sins a-way.



The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to-day.
 For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth in ev-ery heart may grow.
 For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, dark seas of trou-ble roll,
 For he who died on Cal-va-ry is ris-en from the grave,



Of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al-way.
 Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.
 when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
 and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a-dored, is might-y now to save.

This hymn created by a noted Presbyterian hymnal editor and scholar employs place names and sensory images (light, fragrance, wind) to sketch the events of Christ's life. The tune name commemorates the village in Sussex where the arranger first heard the traditional melody.