

Bethlehem (D.C.M)

Arrangement of an old tune.

This tune appears in some hymn books as "Gabriel".

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the word 'Amen' written in the bass clef staff.

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by
All seated on the ground, [night,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
"Fear not!" said he; for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind:
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

2 "To you, in David's town this day
Is born, of David's line,
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid."

3 Thus spake the seraph: and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:
"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease!" Amen.

Nahum Tate, 1652 - 1715.