

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR - CHRISTMAS EVE

30

WINCHESTER OLD. (C. M.)

In moderate time ♩ = 60

First appeared in Este's Psalter, 1592.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system has a treble staff with a melody line starting on G4 and a bass staff with a chordal accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line. There are fermatas over the final notes of both systems.

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715.

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The Angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.
- 2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind;  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.
- 3 '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:
- 4 The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed.  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'
- 5 Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of Angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:
- 6 'All glory be to God on high,  
And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'