

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR - CHRISTMAS EVE

30

WINCHESTER OLD. (C. M.)

In moderate time ♩ = 69.

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 12 measures, and the second system has 12 measures. The music is written in a style typical of early printed music, with notes and rests clearly marked.

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.'