

# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    D    D    Bm    A    Em    D    F#m    G    D    G    A7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6    D    C#dim7    D    G    C#dim    D    A7    D    A7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10    D    Bm    Asus A    Em    D    F#m    G    D    G    A7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave their great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14    D    C#dim7    D    G    C#dim    D    A7    D    A7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No -

18    D    Bm    F#m    D    G    D    A    D    G    D    C#dim    D    A7    D

-well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

Words: English carol

Music: William Sandy's Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern, 1833, harmony by John Steainer, 1840-1901

Singing the Living Tradition #237

Public Domain, no expiration

THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irregular with refrain

# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    D $\flat$     D $\flat$     B $\flat$  m    A $\flat$     E $\flat$  m    D $\flat$     Fm    G $\flat$     D $\flat$     G $\flat$  A $\flat$  7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6    D $\flat$     Cdim7    D $\flat$     G $\flat$     Cdim    D $\flat$     A $\flat$  7    D $\flat$     A $\flat$  7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond as them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10    D $\flat$     B $\flat$  m    A $\flat$  sus A $\flat$     E $\flat$  m    D $\flat$     Fm    G $\flat$     D $\flat$     G $\flat$  A $\flat$  7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14    D $\flat$     Cdim7    D $\flat$     G $\flat$     Cdim    D $\flat$     A $\flat$  7    D $\flat$     A $\flat$  7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18    D $\flat$     B $\flat$  m    Fm    D $\flat$     G $\flat$     D $\flat$  A $\flat$  D $\flat$     G $\flat$     D $\flat$     Cdim    D $\flat$     A $\flat$  7 D $\flat$

- well, - No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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 Irregular with refrain

# The First Nowell

$\text{♩} = 108$  C# C# A#m G# D#m C# E#m F# C# F# G#7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6 C# B#dim7 C# F# B#dim C# G#7 C# G#7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10 C# A#m G#sus G# D#m C# E#m F# C# F# G#7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14 C# B#dim7 C# F# B#dim C# G#7 C# G#7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18 C# A#m E#m C# F# C# G# C# F# C# B#dim C# G#7 C#

- well, - No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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 Irregular with refrain

# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    C    C    Am    G    Dm    C    Em    F    C    F    G7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed the up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6 C Bdim7 C F Bdim C G7 C G7  
 cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10 C Am Gsus G Dm C Em F C F G7  
 fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the a king it was gave their great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14 C Bdim7 C F Bdim C G7 C G7  
 cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18 C Am Em C F C G C F C Bdim C G7 C  
 - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    C<sup>b</sup>    C<sup>b</sup>    A<sup>b</sup> m    G<sup>b</sup>    D<sup>b</sup> m    C<sup>b</sup>    E<sup>b</sup> m F<sup>b</sup>    C<sup>b</sup>    F<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> 7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6    C<sup>b</sup>    B<sup>b</sup> dim7 C<sup>b</sup>    F<sup>b</sup>    B<sup>b</sup> dim C<sup>b</sup>    G<sup>b</sup> 7    C<sup>b</sup>    G<sup>b</sup> 7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10    C<sup>b</sup>    A<sup>b</sup> m    G<sup>b</sup> sus G<sup>b</sup>    D<sup>b</sup> m    C<sup>b</sup>    E<sup>b</sup> m F<sup>b</sup>    C<sup>b</sup>    F<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> 7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14    C<sup>b</sup>    B<sup>b</sup> dim7 C<sup>b</sup>    F<sup>b</sup>    B<sup>b</sup> dim C<sup>b</sup>    G<sup>b</sup> 7    C<sup>b</sup>    G<sup>b</sup> 7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18    C<sup>b</sup>    A<sup>b</sup> m E<sup>b</sup> m C<sup>b</sup>    F<sup>b</sup>    C<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> C<sup>b</sup>    F<sup>b</sup>    C<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> dim C<sup>b</sup>    G<sup>b</sup> 7 C<sup>b</sup>

- well, - No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    B    B    G#m    F#    C#m    B    D#m E    B    E    F#7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6    B    A#dim7 B    E    A#dim B    F#7 B    F#7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10    B    G#m    F#sus F#    C#m    B    D#m E    B    E    F#7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14    B    A#dim7 B    E    A#dim B    F#7 B    F#7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18    B    G#m    D#m B    E    B    F# B    E    B    A#dim B    F#7 B

- well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108   B♭   B♭   Gm   F   Cm   B♭   Dm   E♭   B♭   E♭ F7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6   B♭   Adim7   B♭   E♭   Adim   B♭   F7   B♭   F7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10   B♭   Gm   Fsus F   Cm   B♭   Dm   E♭   B♭   E♭ F7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14   B♭   Adim7   B♭   E♭   Adim   B♭   F7   B♭   F7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18   B♭   Gm   Dm   B♭   E♭   B♭ F   B♭   E♭   B♭   Adim   B♭   F7   B♭

-well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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THE FIRST NOWELL  
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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    A    A    F#m    E    Bm    A    C#m    D    A    D    E7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6    A    G#dim7    A    D    G#dim    A    E7    A    E7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10    A    F#m    Esus    E    Bm    A    C#m    D    A    D    E7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14    A    G#dim7    A    D    G#dim    A    E7    A    E7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18    A    F#m    C#m    A    D    A    E    A    D    A    G#dim    A    E7    A

- well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108    A♭    A♭    Fm    E♭    B♭m    A♭    Cm    D♭    A♭    D♭ E♭ 7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6    A♭    Gdim7    A♭    D♭    Gdim    A♭    E♭ 7    A♭    E♭ 7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10    A♭    Fm    E♭ sus E♭    B♭m    A♭    Cm    D♭    A♭    D♭ E♭ 7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14    A♭    Gdim7    A♭    D♭    Gdim    A♭    E♭ 7    A♭    E♭ 7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18    A♭    Fm    Cm    A♭    D♭    A♭ E♭ A♭    D♭    A♭ Gdim    A♭    E♭ 7 A♭

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6 G F#dim7 G C F#dim G D7 G D7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10 G Em Dsus D Am G Bm C G C D7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14 G F#dim7 G C F#dim G D7 G D7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18 G Em Bm G C G D G C G F#dim G D7 G

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108   G♭   G♭   E♭ m   D♭   A♭ m   G♭   B♭ m C♭   G♭   C♭ D♭ 7



1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6   G♭   Fdim7 G♭   C♭   Fdim G♭   D♭ 7 G♭   D♭ 7



cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10   G♭   E♭ m   D♭ sus D♭ A♭ m   G♭   B♭ m C♭   G♭   C♭ D♭ 7



fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14   G♭   Fdim7 G♭   C♭   Fdim G♭   D♭ 7 G♭   D♭ 7



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18   G♭   E♭ m B♭ m G♭   C♭   G♭ D♭ G♭   C♭ G♭ Fdim G♭   D♭ 7 G♭



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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108 F# F# D#m C# G#m F# A#m B F# B C#7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6 F# E#dim7 F# B E#dim F# C#7 F# C#7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10 F# D#m C#sus C# G#m F# A#m B F# B C#7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14 F# E#dim7 F# B E#dim F# C#7 F# C#7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18 F# D#m A#m F# B F# C# F# B F# E#dim F# C#7 F#

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1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6 F Edim7 F B♭ Edim F C7 F C7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10 F Dm Csus C Gm F Am B♭ F B♭ C7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14 F Edim7 F B♭ Edim F C7 F C7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
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18 F Dm Am F B♭ F C F B♭ F Edim F C7 F

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108 E E C#m B F#m E G#m A E A B7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6 E D#dim7 E A D#dim E B7 E B7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10 E C#m Bsus B F#m E G#m A E A B7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14 E D#dim7 E A D#dim E B7 E B7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18 E C#m G#m E A E B E A E D#dim E B7 E

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# The First Nowell

♩ = 108   E♭   E♭   Cm   B♭   Fm   E♭   Gm   A♭   E♭   A♭ B♭ 7

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star, three

6   E♭   Ddim7   E♭   A♭   Ddim   E♭   B♭ 7   E♭   B♭ 7

cer - tain poor shep - herds, in fields as they lay, in  
 in the east be yond them far, and  
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to

10   E♭   Cm   B♭ sus B♭   Fm   E♭   Gm   A♭   E♭   A♭ B♭ 7

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a  
 to seek the earth it gave great lights, and  
 seek a king was their in - tent, and to

14   E♭   Ddim7   E♭   A♭   Ddim   E♭   B♭ 7   E♭   B♭ 7

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

18   E♭   Cm   Gm   E♭   A♭   E♭ B♭ E♭   A♭   E♭ Ddim   E♭   B♭ 7 E♭

- well, - No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the king of Is - ra - el.

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