

# 40. The First Nowell

The "First Nowell" is one of the four oldest English Christmas carols adapted from old medieval Nowells. The French word for Noel is not only used to name Christmas day but also as a greeting, much as we say "Merry Christmas"

Words traditional

Traditional

*mf*

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shining in the East be -  
3. This star drew nigh to the North west, O'er Beth - le - hem it  
4. Then en - tered in those wise - men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -

fields as they lay, In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a  
yond them far, And to the earth it both gave great light, And  
took its rest, And there it both stop great and stay, Right  
on their knee, And of - fered there His pres - ence, Their

*Chorus.*

cold winter's night that was so deep. *ff* Now - ell, Now -  
so it con tinued both day so night. lay. Now -  
o - ver the place where Je - sus and lay. Now -  
gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



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