Nahum Tate
1652 - 1715

Sweet chiming bells

While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground

the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells, sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells.

They cheer us on our heavenly way, sweet chiming bells.

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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 heav'nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swaddling 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 to the earth be peace; Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men begin and never cease."

SATB version available