The first nowell

Trad. Soprano [4/4] 120

The first nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

No well no well no well no well Born is the King of Israel.

2. They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far.
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star where'er it went.

4. The star drew nigh to the north-west:
Over Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the house where Jesus lay.

5. Then did they know as surely
Within that house the King did lie;
One entered in then for to see,
And found the babe in polverly.

6. Then entered in those Wise Men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

7. Between an ox-stall and an ass
This child there borned surely was;
For want of clothing they did him lay
All in the manger among the hay.

8. Then let us all, with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

9. If we in our lifetime shall do well
We shall be free from death and hell.
For God hath prepared for us all
A resting place in general.

[ shows where barlines fall. ]

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