

Gabriel's Message



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be, All
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head "To
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame: "All
 gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee; Thy
 me be as it pleas - eth God," she said, "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail to thee thou low - ly maid - en Mar - y, Most
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name." Most
 Chris - tian folk throug - out the world will ev - er say: "Most



high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri a!
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri a!
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| <p>1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came
 His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame
 "All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,
 Most highly favored lady," Gloria!</p> <p>2. "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
 All generations laud and honor thee,
 Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
 Most highly favored lady," Gloria!</p> | <p>3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
 "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
 "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
 Most highly favored lady. Gloria!</p> <p>4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
 In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
 And Christian folk throughout the world will
 ever say:
 "Most highly favored lady," Gloria!</p> |
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"Gabriel's Message", in Basque "*Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen*", also known as "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" was collected by Charles Bordes and published in the series *Archives de la tradition basque* (1895).

The lyrics were originally based on "*Angelus Ad Virginem*", a 13th or 14th Century Latin carol.

Sabine Baring-Gould, who wrote several novels and hymns (including "Onward Christian Soldiers") and who had spent a winter as a boy in Basque lands, translated the carol into English, reducing the original 6 stanzas to 4 and giving Gabriel the very beautiful and very Victorian 'wings as drifted snow'.

The carol is commonly performed in an arrangement by Edgar Pettman published in his 1892 book **Modern Christmas Carols**.

It was printed in Pettman's **Modern Christmas Carols** (1892), McDowell and MacKinnon's **A Book of Folk Carols** (2004) and **Evangelical Lutheran Worship** (2006).

It was recorded by Sting on **If on a Winter's Night** (2009) and **A Very Special Christmas** (1987), Marillion on **Christmas.Marillion** (1999) and **Christmas in the Chapel** (2003), Terry McDade and The McDades on **Midwinter** (2001), Jars of Clay on **Christmas Songs** (2007), Charlotte Church on **Dream a Dream** (2000) and Moya Brennan on **An Irish Christmas** (2005).