

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The first staff has chords Dm, Am Dm, Am Dm, and Am Dm. The second staff has Am Dm, Am, Gm, and Dm. The third staff has C, F, Dm, C, and Dm. The fourth staff ends with a Dm chord.

1. God bless you, merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power,
When we have gone astray.
Refrain:
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.
2. In Bethlehem, in Jewry,
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn
Refrain
3. From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
Refrain
4. "Fear not then," said the Angel,
"Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure Virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might."
Refrain
5. The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find.
Refrain
6. And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found Him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray.
Refrain
7. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.
Refrain

Of the three tunes that appear in **The New Oxford Book of Carols** (#151), this tune, known as the "London" tune is from William Shandy's **Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern** (1833). The tune resembles "Chestnut" in the first edition of **The Dancing Master**.