

## Sing a Song of Bethlehem

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first three staves are the main melody, and the fourth staff is a short ending. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, C, D7, G, D, G, Am, D, G, C, Am7, G, D, G, Am, Em, Bm, Em, AmD, G, C, D, G, C, Am7, G, D, G, Am, and Em.

1. O sing a song of Bethlehem,  
of shepherds watching there,  
and of the news that came to them  
from angels in the air:  
the light that shone on Bethlehem  
fills all the world today;  
of Jesus' birth and peace on earth  
the angels sing alway.
2. O sing a song of Nazareth,  
of sunny days of joy;  
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,  
and of the sinless Boy:  
for now the flowers of Nazareth  
in every heart may grow;  
now spreads the fame of his dear Name  
on all the winds that blow.
3. O sing a song of Galilee,  
of lake and woods and hill,  
of him who walked upon the sea  
and bade the waves be still:  
for though like waves on Galilee,  
dark seas of trouble roll,  
when faith has heard the Master's word,  
falls peace upon the soul.
4. O sing a song of Calvary,  
its glory and dismay,  
of him who hung upon the tree,  
and took our sins away.  
for he who died on Calvary  
is risen from the grave,  
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,  
is mighty now to save.

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The lyrics are by American cleric and hymn writer Louis F. Benson around 1899. The tune is "Kingsfold", a folk tune set to a variety of texts in England and Ireland. The tune was published in **English Country Songs** (1893), an anthology compiled by Lucy E. Broadwood and J. A. Fuller Maitland.

After having heard the tune in Kingsfold, Sussex, England Ralph Vaughan Williams introduced it as a hymn tune in **The English Hymnal** (1906) as a setting for Horatius Bonar's "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (488).