

40. The First Nowell

The "First Nowell" is one of the four oldest English Christmas carols adapted from old medieval Nowells. The French word for Noel is not only used to name Christmas day but also as a greeting, much as we say "Merry Christmas"

Words traditional

Traditional

mf

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shining in the East be -
 3. This star drew nigh to the North - west, O'er Beth - le - hem it
 4. Then en - tered in those wise - men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -

7

fields as they lay, In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a
 yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And
 took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay
 on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - ence, Their

13

Chorus.

cold winter's night that was so deep. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 so it con tinued both day and night. lay. *ff*
 o - ver the place where Je - sus in - cense.
 gold and myrrh and frank - in -

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ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



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