

# BETHLEHEM, OF NOBLEST CITIES

Music: STUTTGART, 87.87.; C.F. Witt, 1715; adapt. H.J. Gauntlett, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906  
Text: *O sola magnarum urbium*, Prudentius, 4th cent.; tr. E. Caswall, 1851

1. Beth-le-hem, of no-blest cit - ies None can once with thee com-pare;  
2. Fair-er than the sun at morn - ing Was the star that told his birth;  
3. By its lam-bent beau-ty guid - ed, See, the East-ern Kings ap-pear;  
4. Of-fer-ings of my-stic mean-ing!— In-cense doth the God dis-close;  
5. Ho-ly Je-sus! in thy bright-ness To the Gen-tile world dis-play'd!

The first system of the musical score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the five lines of the hymn text.

Thou a - lone the Lord from heav-en Didst for us In - car-nate bear.  
To the lands their God an-nouncing, Hid be-neath a form of earth.  
See them bend, their gifts to of-fer,— Gifts of in-cense, gold, and myrrh.  
Gold a Roy - al child pro-claim-eth; Myrrh a fu-ture tomb fore-shows.  
With the Fa-ther, and the Spir-it, End-less praise to Thee be paid.

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the text continuing from the previous system.

## ALTERNATIVE HARMONIZATIONS

Music: Harmony from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

The first system of the alternative harmonization is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the five lines of the hymn text.

The second system of the alternative harmonization continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the text continuing from the previous system.

