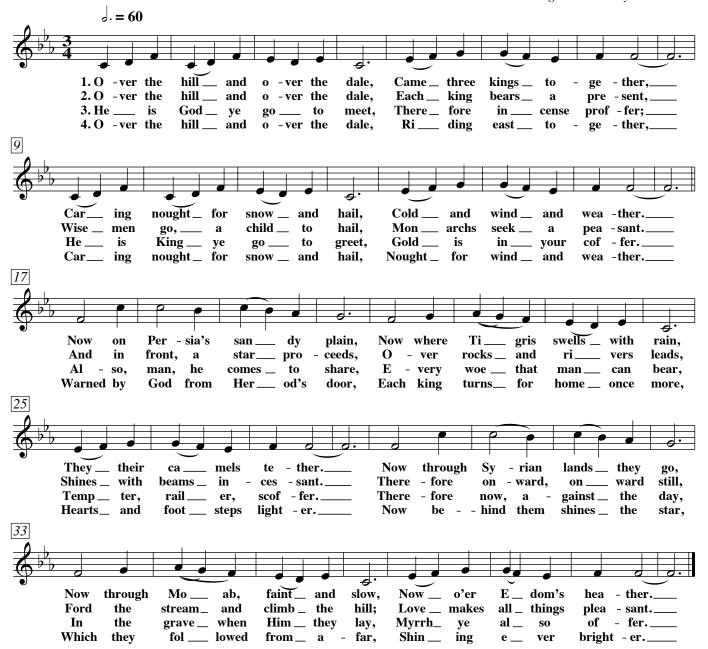
Over the Hill and Over the Dale

Piae Cantiones, 1582 English words by J.M. Neale



Tune transposed to F dorian (key relative to E flat). Originally in A dorian. We decided to sing verses 2-4.

- 1. Over the hill and over the dale
 Came three kings together,
 Caring nought for snow and hail,
 Cold and wind and weather.
 Now on Persia's sandy plain,
 Now where Tigris swells with rain,
 They their camels tether.
 Now through Syrian lands they go,
 Now through Moab, faint and slow,
 Now o'er Edom's heather.
- 2. Over the hill and over the dale
 Each king bears a present,
 Wise men go, a child to hail,
 Monarchs seek a peasant.
 And in front, a star proceeds,
 Over rocks and rivers leads,
 Shines with beams incessant.
 Therefore onward, onward still,
 Ford the stream and climb the hill;
 Love makes all things pleasant.
- 3. He is God ye go to meet,
 Therefore incense proffer;
 He is King ye go to greet,
 Gold is in your coffer.
 Also, man, he comes to share
 Every woe that man can bear,
 Tempter, railer, scoffer.
 Therefore now, against the day,
 In the grave when Him they lay,
 Myrrh ye also offer.
- 4. Over the hill and over the dale Riding east together, Caring nought for snow and hail, Nought for wind and weather. Warned by God from Herod's door Each king turns for home once more, Hearts and footsteps lighter. Now behind them shines the star Which they followed from afar, Shining ever brighter.

Over the Hill and Over the Dale is by J.M. Neale, a setting to a tune from the Piae Cantiones, a book of Latin carols compiled in Finland in 1582. Neale composed English texts for several of them, Good King Wenceslas being the best-known. [Tune and notes transcribed from Nowell Sing We Clear.]