

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

"Angels We Have Heard on High" is a traditional Christmas carol that dates back several centuries. It is believed to have originated in Provence, France and was originally written in medieval Latin. It wasn't until the mid-1800s that the song was translated into English by James Chadwick, an English hymnist who later became Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. After his translation was published, it started appearing in many hymnals.

The lyrics tell the story of angels singing "glory to God" as they descend from heaven to announce Christ's birth. The text also refers to various attributes of God, such as His wisdom, power, mercy, and grace.

One legend claims that "Angels We Have Heard On High" was written by a 16th century blind shepherd named Melchoir Nusser. According to this story, the shepherd heard the song being sung by angels and wrote down what he heard in a journal. However, most historians believe that this legend is actually based on an Italian Christmas carol called "La Stella."

Today, this hymn remains one of the best loved carols in the world. Its simple message of joy and hope continues to captivate audiences across cultures, languages, and time periods.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

$\text{♩} = 115$

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ Whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

Refrain

And the moun-tains in re - ply E - cho-ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heaven-ly song? Glor-
Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

i - a, in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glor-

i - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!