THE WEXFORD CAROL

Traditional, 16th Century or earlier

1. Good peo-ple all, this Christ-mas time, Con-sid-er well, and bear in mind,
2. The night be-fore that hap-py tide, The no-ble Vir-gin and her guide
3. Let all your songs and prais-es be, Un-to his Heav'n-ly Ma-je-sty;

What our good God for us has done, In send-ing his be-lov-ed Son.
Were long time seek-ing up and down To find a lodg-ing in the town.
And ev-er-more, amongst our mirth, Re-mem-ber Christ our Saviour's birth.

With Ma-ry ho-ly, we should pray To God with love this Christmas day;
But mark how all things came to pass: From ev-ry door re-pelled A-las!
That night the Vir-gin Ma-ry mild, Was safe de-liv'er'd of a child;

In Beth-le-hem up-on that morn, There was a blessed Mes-si-ah born.
As long fore-told their ref-uge all Was but a hum-ble ox's stall.
Ac-cord-ing un-to Heav'n's de-cree, Man's sweet sal-va-tion for to be.
4. Near Beth-le-hem did shep-herds keep
   Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
5. With thankful heart and joy-ful mind,
   The shepherds went the babe to find,
6. See how the Lord of Heav’n and earth,
   Show’d him-self low-ly in His birth;

To whom God’s an-gels did ap-pear,
   Which put the shep-herds in great fear.
And as God’s an-gels had fore-told,
   They did our Sav-i-or Christ be-hold.
A sweet ex-am-ple for mankind,
   To learn to bear a hum-ble mind.

“Pre-pare and go,” the an-gels said,
   “To Beth-le-hem. Be not a-fraid
With-in a man-ger he was laid,
   And by His side the vir-gin maid
If quires of An-gels did re-joice,
   Well may man-kind with heart and voice

For there you’ll find this hap-py morn
   A prince-ly babe sweet Je-sus born.”
Attend-ing on the Lord of Life
   Who came to earth to end all strife.
Sing praises to the God of Heav’n,
   That un-to us His Son has giv’n.

from free-scores.com, with additional verses from Some Ancient Christmas Carols with the Tunes To Which They Were Formerly Sung in the West of England, 1822, via books.google.com