

Once in royal David's city

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

IRBY 87.87.77

arr. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating different verses. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second and third lines, and the third staff covers the fourth and fifth lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en stand - ing by,
where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him, but in heav - en set at God's right hand on high;
Ma - ry was that moth - er mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
when like stars, his chil - dren crowned all in white, shall wait a - round.