



December 17, 2023

THE SONGS WE SING AT CHRISTMAS

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Luke 1:26-56

About the Song

Sourced in a Latin Medieval carol about the Annunciation called *Angelus ad Virginem*. 1200-1300

A Basque carol, collected by french teacher, composer, ethnomusicologist Charles Borde

Translated into English by the English priest and scholar Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Based on a traditional Basque tune and arranged by Edgar Pettman in 1922 in *University Carol Book*

Yes as the Cornerstone of All Discipleship

“To me be as it pleases God”

Responding as opposed to initiating: God has the best ideas

Attentiveness, willingness, faithfulness

God leads to the brink of a step to be taken, rarely with a view around the bend

Struggles allowed: parable of the two sons: **Matthew 21:28-32**

Mistakes allowed: GPS

Variations of Yes in the Bible

Moses: The *reluctant* yes (I don't think I am the right person for the job): **Exodus 4:1-17**

Isaiah: The *grateful* yes (what else can I say in light of all you have done?): **Isaiah 6:1-8**

Jonah: The *chastised* yes (this is certainly better than the alternative): **Jonah 3:3**

Paul: The *overwhelmed* yes (I am utterly compelled; I cannot imagine now doing otherwise): **Acts 9:1-22**

Mary: the *puzzled* yes (I do not understand but I will trust): **Luke 1:26-28**

The Ultimate Yes of Jesus

Yes from the beginning: **Revelation 13:8; Philippians 2:5-7**

His earthly ministry characterized by the absolute yes: **John 5:19-20; Hebrews 10:5-7**

The bookends of the Temptation and Gethsemane: **Luke 4:1-13 and 22:39-46**

His “yes” leads to God’s “yes” for the world: **2 Corinthians 1:20**

Our “yes” in imitation: the Revelation and the revelation

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!