48. O Come, All Ye Faithful

The origin of this grand old hymn is unknown, but the words come from an old Italian hymn of the 13th Century. It is supposed to have been first sung in England about 1797, in the Chapel of the Portuguese Embassy. The tune has been variously attributed to John Reading, Thurley, and to the Cisterian monks. More than thirty-eight translations from the Latin words are known, but the one here used has been generally accepted.

Anon. (Latin, 17th Cent.)
Tr. F. Oakeley, 1841

John Reading

After each verse

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye to Beth-lehem; Come and behold Him, Born the King of the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above: Glory to God . . . . In the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.