

## *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

James Montgomery, Lyrics, 1816; Henry Thomas Smart, Music, 1866

The words to this Christmas hymn were written in 1816 as a poem by a newspaper editor named James Montgomery. He published it in his newspaper, "*The Sheffield Iris*" under the title, "*Nativity*".



Montgomery, born in Scotland and the son of Moravian missionaries, was sent to seminary school in Yorkshire. He soon ran away to London where he became a printer's apprentice, eventually taking over the newspaper himself.

He also published three books of secular poetry, and over 400 other hymns. Of his hymns, in addition to this Christmas carol, the best remembered were, "*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*", "*Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire*", and "*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates of Brass*". The tune most often associated with it today is called "*Regent Square*", written in 1866 by Henry Thomas Smart.

Henry Thomas Smart was a blind organist and composer who served at a number of Presbyterian churches in and around London, including the Regent Square Presbyterian Church. The lyrics and tune were first published together in the English Presbyterian hymnal, "*Songs and Hymns for Divine Worship*", in 1867. Smart is also the composer of the hymn tune, "*Lancashire*", which is the tune used for the Thanksgiving hymn, "*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*".

This is a two-part arrangement, so find a playing partner, and enjoy playing this tune together. (It works well in a medley with another popular Christmas hymn, "*Angels We Have Heard on High*").

*Tull*



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