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### The first Nowell

The first Nowell the Angel did say, was to  
cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay. In  
fields where they lay a-keep-ing their sheep, on a  
cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-  
ell, born is the King of Is-ra-el.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The first Nowell'. It consists of six staves of music in 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'VORLESUNGS' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

## The first Nowell

1. The first Nowell<sup>1</sup> the Angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds<sup>2</sup>, in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.  
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the East, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.  
Born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star,  
three wise<sup>3</sup> men came from countries far!  
To seek<sup>4</sup> for a King was their intent<sup>5</sup>,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.  
Born is the King of Israel.

<sup>1</sup> Nowell: from French Noël (= Weihnachten)

<sup>2</sup> shepherd: Schäfer

<sup>3</sup> wise: weise, klug

<sup>4</sup> to seek: suchen

<sup>5</sup> intent: die Absicht