

As Joseph Was A-Walking

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

As Jos - eph was a - - walk - ing He heard an an - - gel ___ sing This
ve - - ry night shalt thou be born To be our Lord ___ and ___ King

As Joseph was a-walking He heard an angel sing
This very night shalt thou be born To be our Lord and King

His birthplace shall be neither In houses nor in hall,
But in a wooden manger laid That rested on the mould.

--- the verses below were provided by Smith's sister Mrs E.E.Rort
of 2 Branksome Villas, Anyards Road, Cobham ---

As Joseph was a-walking He heard an angel sing
This very night shalt Christ be born The Angels Lord and King

His birthplace shall be neither in housen or in hall,
But in a wooden manger rude laid in the oxen's stall.

His clothing shall be neither in purple or in pall,
But in the linen white and fair that unseen baby's all.

As Joseph was a-walking thus did the angels sing:
This very night shall Christ be born, Our glorious Lord and King.

Source: Sung by Charles Smith (49) at Coates on 10 April 1911. Collected by Cecil Sharp
Sharp manuscript FT2579 which includes additional words from Smith's sister Mrs E E Rort

Notes: The 'EDFSS Full English' holds a letter from Charles Smith to Maud Karpeles '...(Cecil Sharp) was staying with Mrs Swanick the Thatched Cottage Coats ... I was then a Postman at ... Daglingworth and I was the leader of a Mumming team at the Village and Mrs Swanick got to know it through a Mrs Gimson at Sapperton and those two ladies came to see me to ask me if I would tell them all about the Mumming and I volunteered to cycle to Mrs Swanick's House the next day. And there I met the Dear old Gentleman Mr Sharp and I found it was him that wanted the Gloucestershire Mumming acting. He was pleased to see me and he wrote down all about the Mumming and I sang some songs as well.'