

# Gabriel's Message

("The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came")

Traditional Basque carol "*Birjina gaztettobat zegoen*," paraphrased from the Latin medieval carol "*Angelus ad Virginem*." Translated and paraphrased to English by Sabie Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Tune: Basque folk melody collected by Charles Bordes (1863-1909) and published in *Archives de la Tradition Basque* (1890), harmonized and published by Edgar Pettman (1866-1943) in *Modern Christmas Carols* (1892).

Scripture references: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

Text by Sabine Baring-Gould:

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady."

Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady."

Gloria!

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

Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favoured lady."

Gloria!