

Key G, first note do(G)

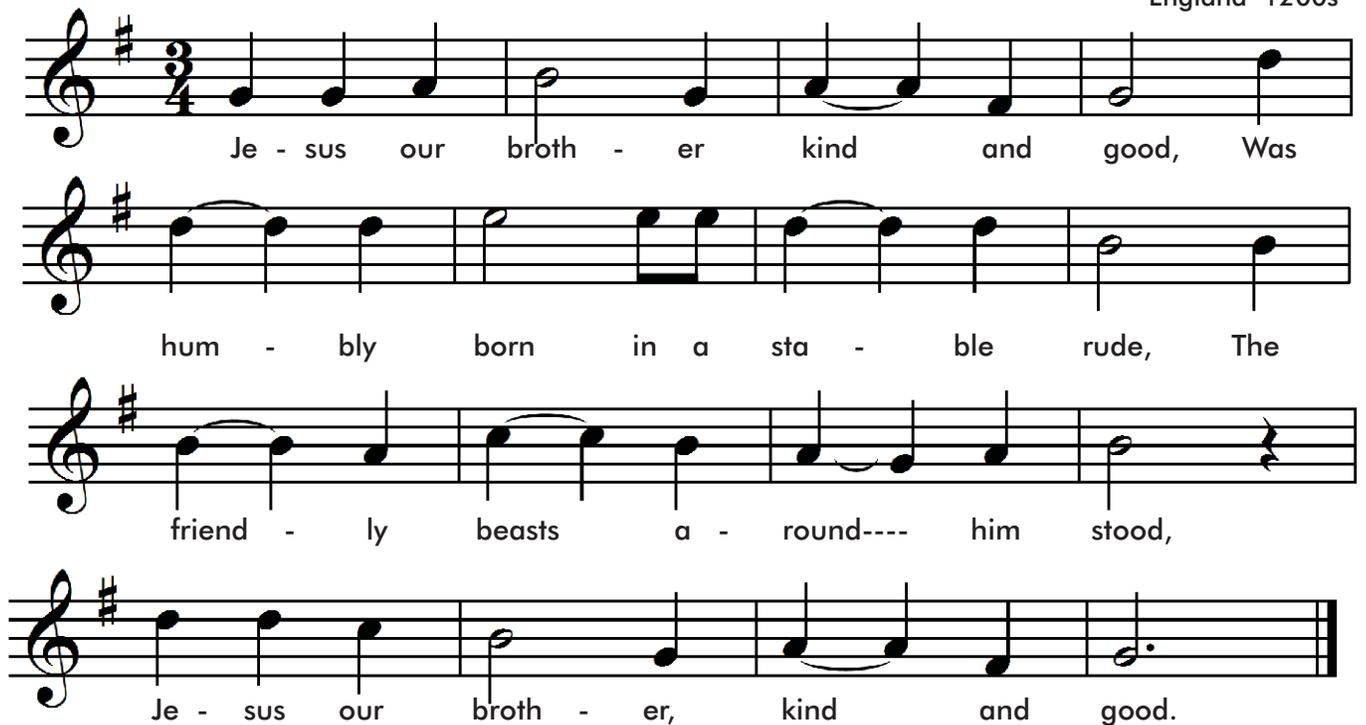
a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 Jesus...

CD intro: bars

The Friendly Beasts

piano

carol
England 1200s



Je - sus our broth - er kind and good, Was
hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude, The
friend - ly beasts a - round---- him stood,
Je - sus our broth - er, kind and good.

1. "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.
I," said the donkey shaggy and brown.

2. "I," said the cow all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for His bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.
I," said the cow all white and red.

3. "I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.
I," said the sheep with curly horn.

4. "I," said the dove from rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I.
I," said the dove from rafters high.

5. "I," said the camel all yellow and brown,
"I carried my saviour all through the town,
I carried his family up hill and down,
I," said the camel all yellow and brown.

6. Thus every beast, by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift that he gave Emmanuel.
the gift that he gave Emmanuel.

"The Friendly Beasts" has its origins in 12th century France. It's Latin version was part of a festival celebrating the work of the donkey in the Christmas story and its aftermath of fleeing to Egypt. The donkey/ass is praised for such things as being "stout of heart with ears like wings and eyes like flame." The English version probably comes from the early in the 19th century, written by Robert Davis.

The simple, easy tune and rhythm lend themselves to performances featuring various children as the animals. It also makes the basis for an art project illustrating either the entire song, or a choice of verses. Scan the art and show it alongside a live performance for a standing ovation!

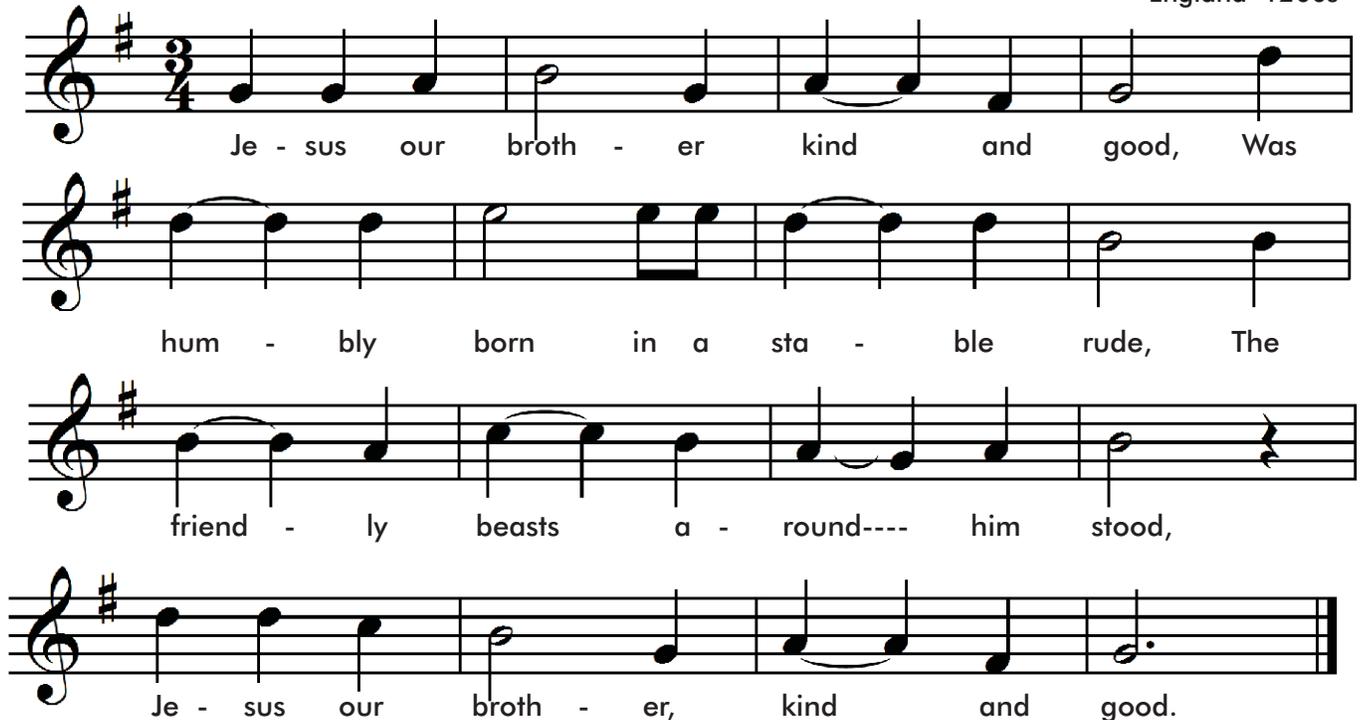
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YouTube versions for an indoor recess or lunch period.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiHxBupPwH8> (Ethan and his art work, play with a nativity set)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4q8JOeAVctI> (professionally staged children and live animals)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsOJOPxezWA> (puppets take the various parts)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMIB89RG86g> (multicultural live performance/tune is iffy)

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