

Christmastide

Breith Chriosda

"The Birth of Christ"

Tune: 'STOWEY', trad. English

Text: anon./trad. Scottish Gaelic

from the *Laoisean Nollaig* collection

via Fiona J. MacKenzie (Isle of Lewis, Scotland)

arr. Timothy Cummings

D - Major
drones: D and/or A

The musical score consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, D major. The top staff is labeled "Melody" and the bottom staff is labeled "2nd". The lyrics are written below the notes, alternating between English and Scottish Gaelic. The first section of lyrics starts with "Nuair bha uis - geach - an Iòr - dain Gu còmh - nard fo pbràmh, Is air". The score includes various chords indicated above the staff, such as D, G, A, D/A, G, D, D/F#, Bm, and A. The lyrics continue through measures 5 to 13, ending with "Ri ____" and "beud.". The score is arranged for two voices or instruments.

A translation of the first verse, offered by Greg MacThomais: "When the waters of Jordan were calm and sleepy / And on Zion's beautiful slopes the stillness was at rest; / When Bethlehem's shepherds were watching the flocks / By the light of the stars, protecting them from all harm."