

**Hymns for 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 –**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY 9am**

**O little town of Bethlehem**

TiS 316. Tune: Forest Green.

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all on earth;
3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel.

*Phillips Brooks 1835-93 alt.*

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**Once in Royal David's City**

TiS 312. Tune: Irby.

1. Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, despised and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And through all his wondrous childhood,  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he has gone.
5. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him: but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
when his children gather round  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander 1818-95 alt.*

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## **O come, all ye faithful**

TiS 304. Tune: Adeste Fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the king of angels:

### **CHORUS**

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

2. True God of true God,  
Light of Light eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father,  
begotten, not created:

### **CHORUS**

3. See how the shepherds  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear,  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

### **CHORUS**

4. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly,

### **CHORUS**

5. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God,  
glory in the highest:

### **CHORUS**

*Possibly by John Francis Wade c.1711-1786*

*Tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80*

*William Thomas Brooke 1848-1917 (vv.3-5) and others*

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## **Joy to the world!**

TiS 268. Tune: Antioch

1. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;  
let earth receive its king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt.*

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