

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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Silent Night

A&M 84. Tune: Silent Night.

1. Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright
round the virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'
3. Silent night holy night
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Joseph Mohr 1792-1848

tr. John Freeman Young 1820-85 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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