

Once in Royal David's City

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Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
 3 And through all this won - drous child - hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
 4 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
 5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem - ing grace,

Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
 Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
 Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
 Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
 For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
 Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
 Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the bishop of Ireland, wrote a series of children's hymns commenting on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn, elaborating on the words "... born of the Virgin Mary," tells the whole life of Christ.

Tune: IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.
 Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
 Harm. A. H. Mann, 1919

CHRISTMAS

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7

Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN