

57. O little town of Bethlehem

Words by
PHILLIPS BROOKS
(1835-93)

English traditional melody
arranged by
R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)
and (V. 4) THOMAS ARMSTRONG (b. 1898)

SOPRANO
ALTO

(ORGAN
or
PIANO)

TENOR
BASS

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. O morn - ing stars, to - ge - ther Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
And prai - ses sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth;
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The e - ver - last - ing light;
For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And, gath - ered all a - bove,
No ear may hear his com - ing; But in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

Descant reprinted by permission of The Royal School of Church Music
Arrangement reprinted from the English Hymnal by permission of Oxford University Press.

melody
ed by
-1958)
1898)

4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, Des - cend to us, we pray;

DESCANT

UNISON VOICES

ORGAN
or
PIANO

This block contains the first system of the musical score. It includes a descant for the melody and unison voices for the lyrics. The organ or piano accompaniment is shown in a grand staff format.

Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

This block contains the second system of the musical score, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system.

We hear the Christ-mas an - - gels The great glad ti - dings tell:

This block contains the third system of the musical score, continuing the melody and accompaniment.

O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em-man-u - el.

This block contains the fourth system of the musical score, concluding the piece with the final line of the lyrics.

For alternative tune by Walford Davies, see p. 382.