

**O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Songs of the Season – Part 4  
Christmas Day – December 25, 2016**

*O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep & dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The Everlasting Light  
The hopes & fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight*

**God's Greatest Gift...**

**1. Came to a Little Town**

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.

**Genesis 35:16-19 (NIV)** “Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. <sup>17</sup> And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, ‘Don’t despair, for you have another son.’ <sup>18</sup> As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin. <sup>19</sup> So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”

**Micah 5:2 (NIV)** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

**John 1:46 (NIV)** “‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked. ‘Come and see,’ said Philip.”

## 2. Came through a Humble Family

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 men on earth!

**Matthew 13:55-56a (NIV)** *“Isn’t this the carpenter’s Son? Isn’t His mother’s name Mary, and aren’t His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>Aren’t all His sisters with us?”*

**Isaiah 66:2b (NIV)** *“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at My word.”*

**1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (NIV)** *“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before Him.”*

## 3. Came as a Helpless Infant

How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

**Luke 2:16 (NIV)** *“So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”*

**Micah 5:4-5a (NIV)** *“He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And He will be our peace.”*

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 the great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel!

**Luke 2:14 (NIV)** *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”*