O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Hymn Devotion – December 21

Scripture: Micah 5:2, 4

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.

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!

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.

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!

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

We sometimes become over taken by how horribly sinful the world is but if we are humble and accepting of our Lord Emmanuel, He will cast out our sin, enter in, and abide in us TODAY!

1. What lies still?
2. How is the sleep described?
3. What shines in the dark streets?
4. What was met in Bethlehem that night?
5. Verse 2: What was the event?
6. Who was sleeping?

Who were keeping watch?

1. What do the morning stars do?
2. What is proclaimed?
3. What are sung?
4. Verse 3: What is given silently?
5. What did God impart?
6. What cannot the ear hear?
7. How is the world described?
8. What do meek souls need to do?
9. What will Christ do?
10. Verse 4: Who are we asking to descend to us?
11. List all of the desires we want from this Christ Child:
12. What do we hear?
13. What are they telling?
14. What are we asking the Lord Emmanuel to do?

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hymn Devotion – December 22

Scripture: Luke 2:9-11, 13-14

Hark! The herald angels sing,   
Glory to the newborn King;   
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,   
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,   
Join the triumph of the skies;   
With th’angelic host proclaim,   
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Refrain*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,   
Glory to the newborn King!*

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;   
Christ the everlasting Lord;   
Late in time, behold Him come,   
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;   
Hail th’incarnate Deity,   
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,   
Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Refrain*

Hail the heaven born-Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,   
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,   
Born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,   
Born to give them second birth.

*Refrain*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Altered by George Whitefield (1714-1770)

Hark – listen today attentively to what the herald – the messenger – angels are saying and give glory to the newborn King!

1. Hark means to listen attentively - Herald is an official messenger - What are the official messengers saying that we are to listen attentively to? (Just the first phrase)

2. What three things will this newborn

King inspire?

3. How should the nations rise?

4. What are all nations invited to do?

What with the angelic hosts are we to proclaim?

5. Verse 2: Who is adored in highest heaven?

6. List the adjectives that describe Christ in lines 2-5 of the second verse:

7. How do you think “Pleased as man with men to dwell” describes Jesus’ attitude about being on earth?

8. Verse 3: Hail is to greet enthusiastically - List two more descriptions of Jesus:

9. Why is Jesus called “heaven-born“?

10. Why is the term “Sun” used to describe

Jesus?

11. What does He bring in His wings?

12. How does “Mild He lays His glory

by” suggest the way Jesus left

heaven?

13. List the “born” phrases:

What could these phrases be used as the definition of?

14. The Chorus: Who are we to listen

attentively to?

15. Who are we giving glory to?

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Hymn Devotion – December 23

Scripture: Matthew 2:10-11

Luke 2:7

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | What Child is this who, laid to rest On Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.  Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.  So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own Him; The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.  William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)  This Child is Christ the King – yet He is a babe, an infant yet – the Word made flesh – very important to the Christian faith that of Jesus it be remembered that He was always God!  Haste to bring praise to His Name this Christmas Day and every day.   1. What is in question? 2. Who is the mother? 3. Who are singing? 4. Who are watching? 5. Who is this Child? 6. Who are guarding and who is singing? 7. How are we to bring Him laud – praise? 8. How is Jesus described? 9. Verse 2: How is the place He lays described? 10. Who are feeding? 11. What are good Christians to do? 12. Who is the silent Word pleading for? 13. What is going to happen to Him? 14. Hail is to acknowledge, confirm. What are we to acknowledge about Jesus? 15. What is Jesus at this point? 16. Verse 3: What was brought to Jesus? 17. Who can “own” Jesus? 18. What does this King of kings bring? 19. What are loving hearts to do? 20. What is to be raised? 21. Who sings a lullaby? 22. What is there because of Jesus’ birth? 23. Among many other things – Who is Christ?   SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT  Hymn Devotion – December 24  Scripture: Luke 2:8, 9, 16-18  Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.  Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!  Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light; Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.  Josef Mohr (1792-1848)  Translated by John FreemanYoung  (1820-1885)    This hymn also covers the whole realm of the Christmas story – the calm bright night – the virgin Mother, the infant sleeping in heavenly peace.  The Shepherds minding their own business when suddenly heavenly hosts – the angels fill the night sky with song with the message of Jesus’ birth.  The night is also the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus’ birth is the beginning of the life of the one who would die and rise to redeem us by His grace.  This Christmas Carol, born in the Austrian Alps and delivered to the world by an organ repairman is one of the most beloved Christmas Carols.   1. How is the night described? 2. What is all? 3. A definition of yon is over there. Who is round yon? 4. How is the Holy Infant described? 5. How was the sleep? 6. Verse 2: How did the Shepherds react? 7. Where did the glories from? 8. Who sang and what? 9. Who was born? 10. Verse 3: How is Jesus described? 11. How is love described? 12. Where are the radiant beams from? 13. What is the dawn of? 14. Whose birth? | |  | |  |