

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

H. WALFORD DAVIES

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The music is in 4/4 time and G major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady accompaniment in the bass. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system shows the melody moving to a higher register. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence.

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 to-night.
2. For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, and 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.

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,
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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Bishop Phillips Brooks