

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:8-12

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by
Yet in the 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 all on earth!

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 still the dear Christ enters in.

Lyrics by Phillips Brooks



Moonless Darkness Stands Between

But the Bethlehem star may lead me
To the sight of Him Who freed me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art Holy;
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;
Now beginning, and always,
Now begin, on Christmas day.

By Fr. Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ



A Christmas Prayer

Jesus, help me to have a loving heart like your mother, welcoming others and reflecting on the events of your life. Help me to hold the events of today and this Christmas season in my heart; to see your face in those I love and those who have loved and supported me; to see your face in strangers who are seeking your love, mercy, and justice. May I always see your face and entrance into my life, especially in those moments I would not have expected. Amen.

By Fr. Mike Tedone, SJ

