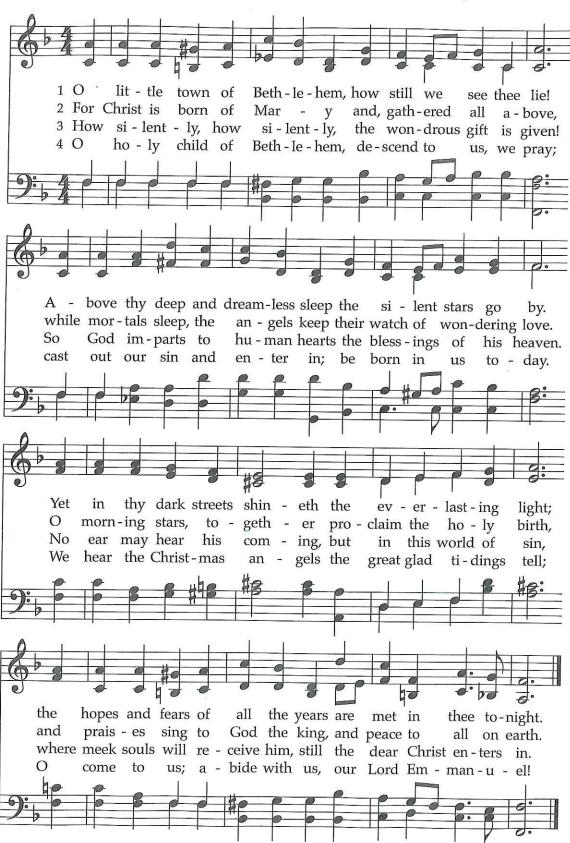
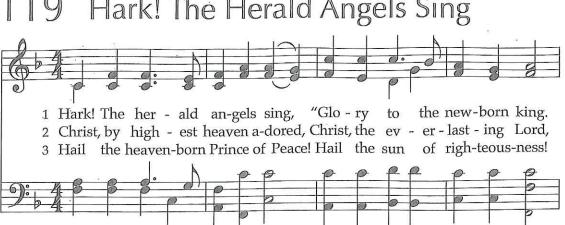
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing





God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb. in time all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings. Light and life





Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Mild he lays his glo - ry by,

join the tri-umph of the hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty, born that we no more may die,





with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - Ie - hem!" Em-man - u - el. pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our sec - ond birth. to raise us from the earth, born to give us



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.



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Away in a Manger



Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.



While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4–9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.