

FIRST CHURCH CELEBRATION WORSHIP

[12.20.20]

Scripture: Micah 5:2
Message: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Songs: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*
Good Christian Friends Rejoice [#151]
O Little Town of Bethlehem [#141]
Even So Come
What a Glorious Night
Doxology

Participating in Worship

Thank you to Andi Dykstra, Lisa Groenendyk, Ashley Uitermarkt, Janeva Van Haften, Mike Melody & Amanda Johnston for leading us in worship.
Pastor Bob Johnson

Repeat the Sounding Joy!

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

December 20, 2020

Micah 5:1-6

Pastor Bob Johnson

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing—let "Glory!" ring with **peace** to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav'ns.
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**.

The First Advent awaited the SAVIOR of the world.

The Second Advent awaits the KING of the world.

The town was little, but the birth was great.

Jesus fulfilled promises relating to David.

Christ protects and brings peace.

Phillips Brooks

1835-1893

Phillips Brooks, the composer of this famous Christmas carol, was the minister of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia and had visited Bethlehem in December of 1865. Phillips Brooks traveled to the Holy Land. The itinerary included a horseback ride from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. Something about the beauty and simplicity of that visit stayed with Phillips Brooks when he returned to America. Several years later, when he wanted a new song of Christmas for the children to sing at his church, he reached back in memory for inspiration from his Holy Land visit. The poem he wrote painted in words the sights and sounds of that little town of Bethlehem he had visited. Writing to the children of his congregation, he recalled that first visit: "I remember especially on Christmas Eve, when I was standing in the old church in Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with the splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices I knew well, telling each other of the "wonderful night" of the Savior's birth."