

## Crib Service carol words

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.

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.

*Words: Phillips Brooks; Tune: Forest Green*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

*Words – anon; Tune W J Kirkpatrick, arr David Willcocks*

Once in royal David's city,  
stood a lowly cattle shed  
where a Mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor, lowly stable  
with the oxen standing by  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
when, like stars, his children, crowned,  
all in white shall wait around.

*Words – Cecil Francis Alexander; Melody –  
Henry John Gauntlett  
Harmony – Arthur H Mann; Descant – David  
Willcocks*

See him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore-  
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the saviour of the world!

*Chorus*

Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;  
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can  
be the saviour of us all.

*Chorus*

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

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Show me the Way to Shine for Jesus  
(to the tune 'Amarillo' by Tony Christie)

Though the shadows gather  
There's a light that shines forever.  
From the bright beginning,  
'Til the day the earth stops its spinning.  
And I feel that brightness  
Rising up in me.  
Making me the person  
That I am meant to be.

Show me the way to shine for Jesus!  
Let my love light up this Christmas.  
Changing dark to light around us.  
Oh sweet Jesus, shine in me! (Repeat)

Sha la la la la la la la (x3)  
Oh sweet Jesus, shine in me!

Lyrics © Lucy Moore 2005.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas from everyone at Solihull Parish.