

**Worshipping Christ through Carols**  
**2. O Little Town of Bethlehem (Micah 5v1-6)**

John Percival

**Introduction**

- *Christmas Eve, 1865*
- **Three lessons** from a little town:

**A long time (v1-2)**

- The prophecy
- Its fulfilment (Matt. 2v1-6, Luke 2:1-7)

**A little place (v2)**

- Smallness
- Insignificance (1 Cor. 1v27-31)

**A leading ruler (v2-6)**

- His person
- His origins
- His ministry

**Conclusion**

**Micah 5v1-6 (NIV)**

- <sup>1</sup> Marshal your troops now, city of troops,  
for a siege is laid against us.  
They will strike Israel's ruler  
on the cheek with a rod.
- <sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times."
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labour bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.
- <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace  
when the Assyrians invade our land  
and march through our fortresses.  
We will raise against them seven shepherds,  
even eight commanders,
- <sup>6</sup> who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,  
the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.  
He will deliver us from the Assyrians  
when they invade our land  
and march across our borders.

**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 tonight.

2 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 to God the King  
and peace to all the earth.

3 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.

4 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 Immanuel!

**Do Not Fear**

Humble virgin, arise and take heart  
You've been chosen to carry a son  
Give no heed to the trembling inside  
For the wonder has only begun

*Do not fear, do not fear*  
*The child you will hold is the Savior foretold drawing near*  
*Do not fear*

Lowly shepherds, look up and take heart  
See the glory of heaven burn bright  
Hear the anthem of joy and good news  
Hope has dawned in a stable tonight

*Do not fear, do not fear*  
*The child in the hay is the Ancient of Days drawing near*  
*Do not fear*

Weary children, be still and take heart  
Every longing you feel is a cry  
For the rest He has offered to all  
Come to Him, for His burden is light

*Do not fear, do not fear*  
*The God who redeems you and ever will keep you is near*  
*Do Not Fear*