

O Little Town of Bethlehem on YouTube as [Kids Worship Songs](#))

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 shined 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, 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;
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.



Prayer Leader:

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12 / 26 / 2017

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Is it still Christmas?



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.

God is present in all our lives.

God cares for us, and

our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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To Ponder: Michael Meade
cited in [Friends of Silence](#) newsletter, December 2017

The “holidays” were once holy days, a sacred time set aside to allow timelessness to enter the human realm and make things whole and holy again... An old description of the human soul was ‘the light found inside the dark.’... There may be no better time than the “dark times” we find ourselves in to rekindle the instinct for uniting together and expressing love and generosity... If we remain in touch with the inner spark and light of the soul, our experiences can become revelatory, our responses more spontaneous, and our hearts more inclusive and life-enhancing.

Reading: Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*

O Holy One, we come prepared to cheer on
our holy leader and hallowed child of wisdom,
Jesus, the anointed one.

Our need is as great today
as it was for those ancient pilgrims
to honor and salute the presence
of truth, beauty and goodness.

For we have wandered far from wisdom,
and we find ourselves cheering
for all the wrong things and all the wrong people.

Now we join with this holy procession of hope
that we might look into the heart of Christ
and see our own sacred heart reflected back,
empowering us to stay with Him,
and stay with our own deep integrity,
when the forces of chaos
conspire to shake our conviction
and make peace with an unholy convention.

Amen



Sharing...
a word...
a phrase...
a reflection...