

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (HWB 178)

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee:
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Come, thou universal savior;
come, redeem the human race.
Life and joy spring from thy favor;
cheer each soul in need of grace.
Still we wait for thine appearing;
make our senseless struggles cease.
Guide us from our weary wand'ring
into paths of perfect peace.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone.
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*, 1744
Stanza 2 above is adapted from another of Wesley's Advent hymns
found in the same collection.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (HWB 178)

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee:
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Come, thou universal savior;
come, redeem the human race.
Life and joy spring from thy favor;
cheer each soul in need of grace.
Still we wait for thine appearing;
make our senseless struggles cease.
Guide us from our weary wand'ring
into paths of perfect peace.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone.
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*, 1744
Stanza 2 above is adapted from another of Wesley's Advent hymns
found in the same collection.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (HWB 191)

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; let "Glory!" ring
with peace to all on earth!

3 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.

4 Where children full of wonder
seek Mary's blessed son;
where misery cries out to see
a new day now begun;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door
that long night wakes, and glory breaks,
as Christmas comes once more.

5 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.

Phillips Brooks, 1868, *The Sunday School Service and Hymn Book...* 1870,
alt.

Stanza 4 above is an adaptation of a stanza usually omitted from
modern hymnals.