

138 O LITTLE TOWN (CHRISTMAS EVE: CHRISTMAS)

English traditional
(R.V.W.)

Bishop Phillips Brooks

In moderate time

SOPRANO ALTO

1. O lit - tle town of — Beth - le - hem, How
A - bove thy deep and — dream - less sleep The
2. O morn - ing stars, to - ge - - ther Pro -
And prais - es sing to — God — the — King, And

TENOR BASS

still we — see thee — lie!
si - lent — stars go — by. (1.) Yet — in thy dark — streets
-claim the — ho - ly — birth, (2.) For — Christ is born — of —
peace to — men on — earth;

shi - - neth The ev - er - last - ing — light; The —
Ma - - ry; And, gath - ered all — a - - bove, While —

hopes and fears of — all — the — years Are met in — thee to - night.
mor - tals sleep, the — ang - els - keep — Their watch of — wond - ring love.

- 3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
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 pure and happy
Pray to the blessed child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And 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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

This hymn, with its tune ('The Ploughboy's Dream') from the *English Hymnal* (15), and *Songs of Praise* (79), is so much a carol that we feel bound to include it in this book also.