

# Once in royal David's city

Words by  
C. F. ALEXANDER  
(1818-95)

H. J. GAUNTLETT (1805-76)  
Vv. 1-5 harmonized by A. H. MANN (1850-1929)  
V. 6 arranged by DAVID WILLCOCKS

**SOPRANO**  
**ALTO**

**TENOR**  
**BASS**

*♩ = 63*

\* 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty Stood a low - ly cat - tle - shed,  
Where a mo - ther laid her ba - by In a man - ger for - his - bed:  
2. He came down to earth from hea - ven Who is God and Lord of - all,  
And his shel - ter was - a - sta - ble, And his cra - dle was - a - stall;

Ma - ry - was that mo - ther mild, - Je - sus - Christ - her lit - tle - child.  
With the - poor, and mean, and low - ly, Lived - on - earth - our Sa - viour ho - ly.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.
4. For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.
5. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

**DESCANT**  
**(SOPRANOS)**

**ALL OTHER VOICES**

**ORGAN**  
**Man.**

**Ped.**

6. Not in that - poor low - ly sta - ble, With the

6. Not in that poor low - ly - sta - ble, With the

Also available separately (*Six Christmas Hymns* arr. David Willcocks)

\* The first verse may be sung by a solo treble.

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ox - en stand - ing by, We shall see him; but in  
 ox - en stand - ing by, We shall see him; but in

hea - ven, Set at God's right hand on high; When like  
 hea - ven, Set at God's right hand on high; When like

*cresc.*  
*cresc.*  
*cresc.*

stars his child - ren crowned All in white shall wait a - round.  
 stars his child - ren crowned All in white shall wait a - round.

(P)