

Once in Royal David's City

Cecil F. Alexander

1. Once in royal David's city
 stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for his bed.
 Mary was that mother mild;
 Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable,
 and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and mean and lowly
 lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And through all his wondrous childhood
 day by day like us he grew;
 he was little, weak, and helpless,
 tears and smiles like us he knew;
 and he feels for all our sadness,
 and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him
 through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle
 is our Lord in heav'n above;
 and he leads his children on
 to the place where he is gone.
5. Not in that poor lowly stable,
 with the oxen standing by,
 we shall see him; but in heaven,
 set at God's right hand on high,
 where like stars his children crowned
 all in white shall wait around.

Inspiration: Luke 2: 7.

Lyrics: 87.87.77; Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895, in "Hymns for Little Children", 1848.