

# 17. HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?

Words by  
FRANCES CHESTERTON

English traditional melody  
arranged by DAVID WILLCOCKS

**Semplice** (♩ = 120)  
SOLO or SEMI-CHORUS FULL

CHILDREN and/or SOPRANOS

ALLOS

*mf* 1. How far is it to Beth - le - hem? *mp* Not ve - ry  
*mp* 3. May we stroke the crea - tures there, Ox, ass, or

1. Not ve - ry  
3. Ox, ass, or

far. *mf* Shall we find the sta - ble - room Lit by a  
sheep? May we peep like them and see Je - sus a -

far. *mf* Shall we find the sta - ble - room Lit by a  
sheep? May we peep like them and see Je - sus a -

star? *cresc.* 2. Can we see the lit - tle child, Is he with -  
-sleep? *cresc.* 4. If we touch his ti - ny hand Will he a -

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-sleep? *cresc.* 4. If we touch his ti - ny hand Will he a -

- in? *dim.* If we lift the wood - en latch May we go in?  
- wake? *dim.* Will he know we've come so far Just for his sake?

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- wake? *dim.* Will he know we've come so far Just for his sake?

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Also available separately (W92)

Sl  
TI

dy  
COCKS

ry  
or

ry  
or

a  
a -

a  
a -

a  
a -

with -  
a -

with -  
a -

n?  
ake?

n?  
ake?

*f* *mp*

5. Great kings have pre - cious gifts, And we have naught, Lit - tle smiles and

*f* *mp*

5. Great kings have pre - cious gifts, And we have naught, Lit - tle smiles and

*mf*

lit - tle tears Are all we brought. 6. For all wea - ry chil - dren

*mf*

6. For all wea - ry chil - dren  
tears Are all we brought. 6. For all wea - ry chil - dren

*p*

(6.) Ma - ry must weep. Here, on his bed of straw  
(7.) Babes in the byre, Sleep, as they sleep who find

*p*

(6.) Ma - ry must weep. Here, on his bed of straw  
(7.) Babes in the byre, Sleep, as they sleep who find

*Fine mf* *D.S.*

Sleep, chil - dren, sleep. 7. God in his mo - ther's arms,  
Their heart's de - sire.

*mf*

Sleep, chil - dren, sleep. 7. God in his mo - ther's arms,  
Their heart's de - sire.