

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

2

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spears shall pierce him through,  
the cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary.



These lyrics were written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865, not so long ago, but before Christmas had taken on the commercial face of jolly good cheer without a view of the passion.

The theology of the Incarnation includes the Paschal mystery.