

How Should We Receive You?

An Advent Hymn

How should we then receive You, where would You have us meet?

You are our fiercest longing, our greatest earthly need.
Oh, may Your Spirit guide us, that flame will give us light,
for in our daily living, the day oft seems like night.

You came, a little baby, just wrapped in swaddling clothes,
but You are our Redeemer, the Lord of Sabaoth.
Soon laying in a manger, You came from heav'n above,
You came down to a stable, to bring Your Father's love.

Far from Your throne in heaven and God's eternal light,
You came to bring His message, His glory, and His might
to us, Your creatures, lost in sin, who long have lost their way.
Oh Lord, Your love is fathomless: with us You came to stay.

Praise God, all creatures here below, for God sent you His Son,
to show us what we could not do, to show us how 't is done.
The angels would His heralds be, of peace, goodwill to man.
Oh, had the whole world then joined in, to sing the great: Amen.

How can we ever thank You? For us You did come down.
While oft we don't receive You, still, offer us Your crown.
You gave Your life, so we might live, no greater love has He,
then He who forfeits His own life, You did that on a tree.

We'll celebrate Your birth again, the day that You first came.
And left with us Your promise, that You will come again,
to gather all who do believe, are set from bondage free.
Oh Lord, I thank You for that truth, You'll do it, too, for me.

First verse inspired by a 17th Century German Advent Hymn by: Paul Gerhardt (1607-'76)
Text: Adrian Vermeulen-Miller.