Once in Royal David's City

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:
and he feels for all our sad-ness and he shares in all our glad-ness.

3 For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by
there his children gather round bright like stars, with glory crowned.

5 Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by
for he was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feels for all our sad-ness and he shares in all our glad-ness.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

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