

what child is this?

Words traditional

Traditional English Tune, "Greensleeves"

Harmonized by Sir John Stainer

1. What Child is this, Who, laid to rest, On Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom
 2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king, to own Him, The

an - gels greet with an - themes sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Chris-tian, fear: for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing:
 King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

→ This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through, The Cross be borne, for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, The Vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!
 Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!



The words of this carol are sung to the old English tune "Greensleeves" which was popular before the time of Queen Elizabeth. It was one of the best-liked tunes of its day and Shakespeare mentions it twice in "The Merry Wives of Windsor." The present words about the Christ Child were written by William C. Dix during the reign of Queen Victoria.