

## *What Needs Are Met In Christ?*

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever-lasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

### *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

*If the words of these two songs are correct, what hopes, fears, and desires are met in Christ?*

Through his seven “I am” statements in the gospel of John, Jesus explains how he meets us at our point of need.

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 10:7–9

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **I am the door**. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:11–14

**I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **I am the good shepherd**. I know my own and my own know me,

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 15:5

**I am the vine;** you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

During the holiday season, our eyes are drawn to scenes of the nativity; to the babe lying in a manger. This Christmas, let your heart come closer. Draw near to the One who says “*I Am the Bread of Life, the Light, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the Way, and the Vine*”.

If you are . . .

- Hungry, yet longing for something to truly satisfy
- Lost and alone in the dark, searching for answers and guidance
- Feeling insecure and defenseless, or searching for security and protection that will be there when you need it
- Feel like you don’t belong, and are searching for a sense of family and relationship
- Long for the assurance that there is more to life than just this—that there is life beyond the grave
- Confused by so many different beliefs and options, and are searching for certainty in an age of perplexity
- Wondering if you matter and if your life will make a difference, longing for a sense of significance and a source of fruitfulness

. . . then come to Jesus. He will sooth your fears and satisfy the deepest longings of your heart.