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An Australian Christmas Carol

Irish traditional melody
Arr. by P. Jones



1. O little Babe of Bethlehem!
The Southern Cross shines down,
As once a Star shone glorious
Above an eastern town.
2. The hearts of Bethlehem are cold,
The streets are hushed with snow,
The doors are barred, there is no room
Dear Lord, where wilt Thou go?
3. O come, sweet Jesus, come to us!
Australia's sun is warm,
And here are loving hearts enough
To shield Thee from the storm.
4. Come! we will give Thee all we have,
Each bird and flower and tree,
The breeze that stirs the silver gums.
The music of the sea.
5. And sweet wild clématis starry-eyed,
With delicate ferns we'll bring;
Our wattle trees shall shower their gold
In tribute to our King.
6. We'll watch, when evening sounds begin,
And dreaming flowers nod,
Thy Mother fold Thee in her arms,
Thou little Lamb of God.
7. Bell-birds shall ring their silver peal
From gullies green and deep,
And mingle with the magpies' note
To call Thee from Thy sleep.
8. O little Babe of Bethlehem
Australia loves Thee well,
Come to our hearts this Christmastide,
And there forever dwell.

(I.B.V.M.)