

to our view, we learn more and more of God's love and of our own unworthiness; and the example of the blessed Saviour who was born on Christmas Day teaches us above all the lesson of humility and self sacrifice. Though for ever God, He is content to become Man: though in the form of God, He condescends to take the form of a servant: though equal with the Father as touching His Godhead, He counts not His Equality with God a thing to be grasped at, but empties Himself and is made in the likeness of men: He leaves His Throne and His Kingly crown; and adopts the life of a homeless wanderer, Who has not where to lay His Head; and at last He humbles Himself even to a slave's death, the death of the cross.

“Who is this, so weak and helpless,  
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
Rudely in a stable sheltered,  
Coldly in a manger laid?  
Tis the Lord of all creation,  
Who this wondrous path hath trod:  
He is God from everlasting,  
And to everlasting God.”

We cannot, we dare not attempt to, separate between the Divine and the Human in the holy Child of Mary. He Who is before all things, Whose goings forth have been from of old, even from everlasting, was conceived in the Virgin's womb: The eternal Word, which was in the beginning with God, and was God, by Whom all things were made, is the little new-born Infant, whose feeble cry is expressive of His very helplessness. The only begotten Son of God, in Whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily is the Babe of Bethlehem. But the more we place such wondrous contrasts together, the more will be impressed upon us the first lesson of the great mystery of godliness, the lesson of humility. If He humbled Himself from love to us unworthy sinners, we too must humble ourselves for our many sins and shortcomings. We cannot be like Him unless we learn humility, for He was humble: and it is a lesson that does not come naturally to us; we must learn it, learn it of Him Who humbled Himself for our sakes.

“Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee,  
In Thy sweet humility.”