

HYMN STORY: THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE

Saturday, December 20

(1) Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown / When Thou camest to earth for me
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room / For Thy holy nativity
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus / There is room in my heart for Thee

(2) Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang / Proclaiming Thy royal degree
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth / And in great humility
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus / There is room in my heart for Thee

(3) Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word / That should set Thy people free
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn / They bore Thee to Calvary
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus / There is room in my heart for Thee.

(4) When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing / At Thy coming to victory
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room / There is room at My side for thee"
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus / When Thou comest and callest for me.

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott (1836-1897) had a love for children. She was the daughter of an Anglican clergyman and the niece of Charlotte Elliott who wrote the hymn "Just As I Am." Her work involved rescue missions and hospitals as well as Sunday School. The song "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" was written for the children at her father's church to help them understand the meaning of Advent and Christ's nativity.¹

The song is a study in contrasts. It begins with the glories of heaven where Christ is on the throne to His birth in Bethlehem where there was no room for Him. All heaven rejoiced at His coming, but the world ignored His arrival. He is the living Word of God but was mocked by the world He came to save. Each of the first three verses ends with an invitation for Christ to come and dwell in our hearts.

The last verse reverses the theme of the other verses. At His 2nd Coming, it is Christ who is inviting us home. While there was no room for the Savior at His 1st Coming, when He returns there will be room at His side for those who have invited Him into their hearts.

Can you sing "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for Thee"?

Listen on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnR5OcIzCJM&list=RDRnR5OcIzCJM&start_radio=1

¹ C. Michael Hawn @ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-thou-didst-leave-thy-throne>