

Phillips Brooks (December 13, 1835 – January 23, 1893) was an [American Episcopal](#) clergyman and author, long the [Rector](#) of Boston's [Trinity Church](#) and briefly [Bishop of Massachusetts](#). He wrote the lyrics of the Christmas hymn, "[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)".

He is honored on the [Episcopal Church liturgical calendar](#) on [January 23](#).¹

He was for many years an overseer and preacher of [Harvard University](#). In 1881, he declined an invitation to be the sole preacher to the university and professor of Christian ethics. On April 30, 1891, he was elected sixth Bishop of Massachusetts, and on October 14 was consecrated to that office in Trinity Church.

He died unmarried in 1893, after an episcopate of only 15 months. His death was a major event in the history of Boston. One observer reported: "They buried him like a king. Harvard students carried his body on their shoulders. All barriers of denomination were down. Roman Catholics and Unitarians felt that a great man had fallen in Israel.