

HYMNS OF
ADVENT

**If we let them,
Christmas carols can...**

- bring together generations
- inspire us to awe and worship
- teach us deep theological truths
- proclaim the good news of Jesus

O HOLY NIGHT

LUKE 2:8-11

Placide Cappeau, 1847; *tr.* by John S. DwightAdolph Adam; *arr.* by G. B. H.

Oh, ho - ly night, the stars are bright-ly shin - ing; It is the night of the dear Sav-ior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and er - ror pin - ing, Till He ap-peared and the soul felt its worth.

THE STORY OF “O HOLY NIGHT”

ROQUEMAURE, FRANCE

An irreligious wine
merchant and poet.

PARIS, FRANCE

A renowned composer
and music critic.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

A writer, minister,
and abolitionist.

BRANT ROCK STATION

A professor
and musician.



ROQUEMAURE, FRANCE

1843

“Midnight Christians”

PLACIDE CAPPEAU

PARIS, FRANCE

1847



“Christmas Carol”

ADOLPHE ADAMS

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1855

“O Holy Night”

JOHN SULLIVAN DWIGHT

B. 650

VERSE ONE:

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.*

*Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

VERSE TWO:

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.*

*So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land.*

*The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.*

*He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!*

VERSE THREE:

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.*

*Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.*

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

BRANT ROCK, MASSACHUSETTS

1906



“O Holy Night”

REGINALD FESSENDEN

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THE STORY OF “O HOLY NIGHT”

BETHLEHEM OF GALILEE

The Messiah, Jesus.
God in a manger.

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**THE STORY OF “O HOLY NIGHT”
POINTS TO A GREATER STORY.**

ISAIAH 9:6-7 NIV

1221

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

MICAH 5:2 ^{NIV}

“But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

LUKE 2:1-5 NIV

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

LUKE 2:6-7 ^{NIV}

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,
⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths
and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room
available for them.

LUKE 2:8-12 ^{NIV}

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

LUKE 2:13-15 NIV

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

LUKE 2:16 ^{NIV}

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

“Holy theology arises from knees bent before the mystery of the divine child in the stable. Without the holy night, there is no holy theology... Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.”

- DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, “GOD IS IN THE MANGER”

LUKE 2:17-20 NIV

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

“Christmas contains many spiritual truths, but it will be hard to grasp the others unless we grasp this one first. That is, that the world is a dark place, and we will never find our way or see reality unless Jesus is our Light.

Christmas is an invitation to know Christ personally. Christmas is an invitation by God to say: Look what I’ve done to come near to you. Now draw near to me. I don’t want to be a concept; I want to be a friend.”

- TIMOTHY KELLER, “HIDDEN CHRISTMAS”

**Christ is the LORD;
O praise His name forever!**