

CAROLS Wk1: O HOLY NIGHT TEACHING NOTES

Luke 2:1-20; Lamentations 3:20-25

O Holy Night is a French Poem written in 1843-1847 by Placide Cappeau

Based on Luke 2

Composed by Adolphe Adam and called "Cantique de Noel" or "Minuit, Chrétiens"

Translated to American English by John Sullivan Dwight around 1855

O Holy Night became the first song to ever be broadcast via radio waves

In the midst of the weary world...we can have a thrill of hope because a new and glorious morning is coming

Literal Translation

Midnight, Christians, is the solemn hour,
When God as man descended unto us
To erase the stain of original sin
And to end the wrath of His Father.
The entire world thrills with hope
On this night that gives it a Saviour.

People, kneel down, await your deliverance.
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

May the ardent light of our Faith
Guide us all to the cradle of the infant,
As in ancient times a brilliant star
Guided the Oriental kings there.
The King of Kings was born in a humble manger;
O mighty ones of today, proud of your greatness,

It is to your pride that God preaches.
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!

The Redeemer has broken every bond
The Earth is free, and Heaven is open.
He sees a brother where there was only a slave,
Love unites those whom iron had chained.
Who will tell Him of our gratitude,
For all of us He is born, He suffers and dies.

People, stand up! Sing of your deliverance,
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer!

John Sullivan Dwight's Version

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd 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 divine, O night, O night Divine.

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 the 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 weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

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.

TALK IT OVER

INTRODUCTION

During this Christmas season, take some time to reflect on what Jesus has done in your life. 2020 is like none other and we hope that as we move toward 2021 it will be like none other as well...in a great way. Download the 25 day devotional and listen the Spotify Playlist, both of which can be found on our website www.fbchiawatha.org. Have a great Christmas season!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one of your favorite Christmas carols? What is it about that carol that makes it special?
2. Read Luke 2:1-20
 - a. What types of emotions or thoughts do you have when you read about Christ's birth in Luke 2?
 - b. What do you find most inspiring about the way Christ's birth is described in Luke 2?
3. Read Lamentations 3:20-26 and think about the following:
4. In what ways have you seen Christ give you exactly what you need?
5. What needs do you currently have that you are relying on Christ to provide?
6. Where in your life do you feel tired and weary? What has caused your weariness?
7. What steps do you need to take to let go of your fears and hold onto the hope you have in Christ?
8. How is the hope you have in Christ like no other?
9. How was your coming to know Christ as your Savior like the dawning of a new day?

MOVING FORWARD

This week have a thrill of hope because of what Jesus has done and is continuing to do in your life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.."

—Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT)