

Songs of Christmas Series
Part 2 – O Come All Ye Faithful
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Today is week two of our Christmas series where we are taking some of the well-known and cherished Christmas carols and using them to help tell the Christmas story.

These songs have been sung and handed down through the generations. These are songs of our faith, rich in meaning and biblical truths. They were written to cause us to worship just as the shepherds, wisemen, and angels did when the Christ child was born.

We will be using Matthew 2 as our main text, so you can turn to it awhile.

This week we are looking at the song *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

The words and music of this song have been attributed to various authors. The carol was originally written in Latin with another title. (Adeste Fideles) It is normally accredited to John Francis Wade, who was an 18th century hymn writer. It is also attributed to John Reading and King John IV of Portugal with the earliest manuscript of the hymn bearing his name. It was first published in 1760.

It was translated to English in 1841 by Frederick Oakley and William Brooke and has since been translated into many languages and sung around the world.

It was also known as '*The Portuguese Hymn*'. Some say that this came about because it was always sung at Christmas at the Portuguese Embassy.

It is a carol that has stood the test of time and has been sung throughout the ages.

Let's listen to O Come All Ye Faithful- sung by an 11-member a-cappella group from Florida named *Voctave*. Then at the end of my message we will all sing it together.

VIDEO SONG

Read Matthew 2:1-12

The magi or wisemen were on a mission to find the Christ child so they could worship him.

Their mission is our mission - to discover Jesus and to worship him. Both the magi story and today's song are about worship so let's focus on the theme of worship this morning.

1. All heaven and earth are invited to come and worship.

This carol is a call to worship – calling all creation. Calling all humanity and all angelic heavenly beings. Come, let's all worship Jesus! Come, let's adore him together.

There is a sense of urgency to this song. Like my granddaughter tugging on my hand, wanting to show me something she has found. Half dragging me. “Let's go, let's go, let's go!” Wanting me to experience the joy and excitement she has found.

The invitation is to all. “*O come all ye faithful*” – “Faithful” does not refer to the perfect and those that have it all together, but those who are faithfully trying.

It refers to all who are faithfully seeking truth. All who long for the messiah. All who recognize they need a savior. All the bound and broken. All the weary and discouraged. All who are willing to surrender their lives to Jesus.

The song is inviting the faithful seeker to come and meet Jesus. To come and worship him.

Inviting seekers, like the shepherds, the lowest and outcast of society and like the wisemen who may have been seen as wealthy and proud. They both left everything else when they found out who this baby was. God had come to earth, they rushed to worship and adore him.

The invitation is also to the angels. The angels were very busy in the Christmas story. They join in on this historic event with a choir from heaven.

“*Sing choirs of angels - Sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above*” - Jesus is described in this song as the King of angels.

Oh come all ye faithful – Come let us adore him.....

The Psalmist gets caught up in this call to worship. He invites us to leave our spectator seats and come out on the field and join in active worship.

Psalm 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker

Psalm 100:2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Psalm 86:9 All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

Someday all the nations will recognize Jesus as Savior and Lord and worship him. What a great prophetic promise.

2. We are all created to worship.

We all have a worship gene built into us. If we are not worshipping Jesus, we will find someone or something else to worship. You are created to worship God!

There is a subtle danger hidden in Christianity. And that is, it is possible to serve God as a Christian without really becoming a worshipper of him.

Some people instead of worship and devotion respond to Jesus out of duty, obligation, tradition, and fear. Like a slave to his master. They see God as the taskmaster instead of the lover of their souls. That is not worship but hard religion.

But Jesus doesn't simply want our service and our good lives. He wants our worship! He wants our love. He takes pleasure in our affection.

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. KJV

We are all created to bring pleasure to God thorough our worship.

3. Worship is to be expressed through our lifestyle and whole being.

The invitation this morning is for you and me to become worshipers.

Worship is both living a life pleasing to the Lord and expressing the love in my heart for him with my whole being.

I grew up with a strong focus on worshipping God by living a godly life. But worshipping God with outward expressions of raising my hands, and shouts of praise and through instruments was all strange to me.

Yet the bible encourages us to be expressive in our worship with all these outward expressions. To worship with our whole being - body, soul and spirit.

I remember the first time I raised my hands while worshipping in church. I felt awkward, it felt strange, I thought everyone was watching me. But I was beginning to find a new freedom and joy in worshipping God with my whole being.

King David said – **Psalm 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. KJV**

I heard one pastor, who grew up in a very reserved church, say that he kept reading in the bible about shouting to the Lord, but he couldn't do that. It was too awkward, too strange with how he was brought up to worship.

But he wanted to grow in his expressions of worship as the bible taught so he went out into the mountains where no one was around and began shouting praises to God.

At first it was only a half of shout until he could praise God with all that was in him. He said it broke something free inside of him.

Did you know even the trees join us in our worship. **Isaiah 55:12 The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! NLT**

So, no matter your personality, age, or past church tradition or if you are a tree, I encourage you to keep growing in your worship expressions. God enjoys it.

Sometimes I just want to be quiet and sit or kneel or lay on my face before God and other times I like to clap and shout and maybe even do a little dance. Today I am free to be expressive in my worship which is such a blessing. And I'm glad to be in a church that makes room for these expressions.

O Come all ye faithful. The song then encourages us to be *joyful and triumphant in our worship!* We are joyful and triumphant in Jesus this morning. We have a good reason to sing and praise him. Our worship should always be full of passion!

**Ps 47:1 Go ahead and celebrate! Come on and clap your hands, everyone!
Shout to God with the raucous sounds of joy! TPT**

O come all ye faithful ones, joyful and triumphant ones, lets worship and adore him together as we stand and sing this song together.

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Application: Find sometime this week to create your own little worship experience. Get alone and put on a worship song. Then worship freely with all your heart.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.