



Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29

This is a hymn carol that incorporates a sense of reverence, joy, and solemnity all in one composition. Originally written in Latin by John Wade in 1743, it was later translated into English by Frederick Oakley and William Brooke (1841). The musical score was composed by Simao Portogallo.

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;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

For Christmas:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

For Epiphany:

Lo! star-led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring,
offer him frankincense and gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts oblations: *Refrain*

This hymn is as often sung in Latin as in English since the original Latin is so beautifully expressed and poetically fashioned. We not only know, but FEEL the meaning of Venite adoremus.

The invitation to come to Christ is addressed to all who are of mind and inclination to come in in humility and faith. The shepherds were invited, and they dropped their mundane labors and went immediately to see this thing of which the Angel had spoken. They were surprised by the wonderful invitation. There are others, however, who diligently seek Him such as the Wise Men of the East. These were most likely the Magi of Persia who studied the heavenly bodies and loved light. The Magi were priests of the Zoroastrian religion who kept a perpetual fire burning as a matter of their own faith. Men and women are chosen and called today in the same variety of ways. Many are oblivious to the ways of God and are suddenly drawn; others may have even studied false religion for a lifetime, and are then awakened to the True religion of Christ.

It is certain that in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we are lost without Christ; so, we are drawn to depart our present life and "Come unto" the Lord Jesus Christ. Though we are called from every walk of life, there is only ONE WAY that will benefit - and that is the Narrow Way of Jesus Christ. As the Wise Men learned, it was not by way of the capital cities of the world, but the humble and lowly ways of the Savior. We must LEAVE our former trappings behind and go immediately when beckoned, to the Holy One - Jesus Christ. "*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.*" Though we are invited to come from wherever we are beckoned, we cannot remain in that same pitiful state after we learn of Christ.

"True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created." Jesus is not only the Light of the World, but the True Light that has shone from Eternity Past whose beams pierce the endless and dark ether of infinity. Though He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He is not proud and self-exalted. He is willing to be born of a humble and simple young virgin of the common people. Though the carnal Son of Mary, He is the only Begotten Son of God the Father. He is of the same substance with the Father and, therefore, not made as we are made after the blood-line of Adam.

"Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" Though in that Ancient Day, it was the Angels who

sang in chorus, it is now our own privilege to do so in singing the praises to God our Savior and Maker. Those who have become naturalized citizens of Heaven may join their voices to those of the great angels. Having traveled the earth as pilgrims and vagabonds, bearing our meager means of living lightly on our backs, we may now walk up to those gates of splendor and be welcomed to the Heavenly Kingdom - leaving all burdens at the gate.

"See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle, Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps." Not only will those who are called come to the warmth and light of the Baby Jesus, but also to the sacrifice of that rugged cross of Calvary. *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* (Luke 9:23)

Do you know that all who follow Christ are, just like the Wise Men, following a Star? *"Lo! star led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring, Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh; We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations."* It is not possible to view the effulgent Light of Christ without awe and adoration. But He is that Bright and Morning Star that leads, relentlessly, through the our dark night of despair and the very Valley of the Shadow of Death to the glowing Light of the Sunrise of the Day Star which is also the Resurrected Christ. We offer what gold we have as a token of His rightful heir to the Throne of Heaven; our Frankincense of worship to honour Him as Lord and Savior; and our Myrrh as evidence of the atoning death He died in our stead. Our physical gold and silver will not gain the passage, but the treasures of our hearts are His glory and prize.

"Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, We would embrace Thee, with love and awe; Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?" Though Christ was poor in His earthly manger, He was rich in the possessions of Heaven. Though lain in a manger, He was Maker of the manger, of the beasts of the field gathered there about, and of all that the eye could see from horizon to horizon. There are only two ways of embracing Christ - with the kiss of Judas, or with awe and love. Had He not first loved us, we could not have the privilege to love Him so. Yes, He loved us so dearly even before we were born. He loved us so dearly that He came out from the Palisade Palaces of Heaven to lie in a manger and also on a cross for us.

"Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing." It is, indeed, a happy morning of our lives when Christ comes into a newborn heart. We are born anew in the morning of eternity when Christ comes to us! He was the Word from the very beginning - that eternal beginning before the worlds were made. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.....He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* (John 1:1-5, 10-14).

If you have read and believed on His Word, to you, too, has He appeared!

Come now, dear Reader, from your weary struggles and hardships.....come

away from the dreary life of rags and poverty....come to the Light of the World and the warmth of Heavenly Love...Come to Christ.

*O Come Let Us Adore Him,
O Come Let us Adore Him,
O Come Let us Adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*