

O Holy Night

Placide Cappeau (trans. John Sullivan Dwight) · 1847 · Tune: Cantique de Noël (Adolphe Adam)

Meter: Irregular

Verse 1

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour'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 2

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!

History

French wine merchant Placide Cappeau wrote the poem 'Minuit, chrétiens' in 1847 at the request of his parish priest. Composer Adolphe Adam set it to music within weeks. American Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight produced the familiar English translation in 1855.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.