

12-6-2023 - Carols of Christmas – O Come, All Ye Faithful

Christmas carols bring us together . . . and bring us to the C-mas story.

We all have our favorites. Each has a story.

Attributed to **John Francis Wade. Mid-1700's.**

Lived in English Catholic community exiled to France. Liturgical music.

Failed revolt/Jacobite uprising, 1746. Charles Edward Stuart to throne.

The lyrics have been translated from the Latin, *Adeste Fideles*.

Popular. Sung by Nat King Cole, Carrie Underwood, Anne Murray,

Pentatonix, Take 6, Josh Groban, Ella Fitzgerald, Luther Vandross, Elvis.

This Carol is a call for us to come to the Manger . . . to go to Bethlehem

“O come, all ye faithful, joyful & triumphant, O come ye, to Bethlehem.”

- **Come to Bethlehem.**
 - Not everyone will come. We get comfortable.
 - Going to Bethlehem might be inconvenient.
 - It wasn't convenient for Mary & Joseph to go from Galilee (town of Nazareth), to Judea, (city of Bethlehem).
 - Mary was pregnant. A difficult journey w/o pregnancy.
 - Will we go to the manger? Give up time for Jesus?
- O Come, **all** ...
 - Wade lived in a time of great political division.
 - Come all ye faithful . . . find common ground at the manger
 - The manger brings together Shepherds & Wisemen.
 - Angels sang to Shepherds . . . outcasts. No outcast to God.
- Carol is call to the **faithful to go to Bethlehem**. Who are the **faithful**?
 - Faithful – remaining loyal, steadfast. Committed.
 - Those who stay with their faith when it's hard.
 - John Wade was faithful to Catholicism; great cost.
 - Mary called to do hard things. Joseph – hard things.
 - Shepherds left the sheep to go.
 - God sometimes calls us to hard things... ministry, difficult.
 - The faithful stay the course.

- Joyful & Triumphant.
 - 'Tho the journey is hard, be happy you're going to Bethlehem
 - Triumphant. Life won't defeat you. God is greater.
 - *"Nothing will be impossible with God."* – Gabriel to Mary.
 - At this Christmas season, be joyful & triumphant.
- O Come, let us adore Him.
 - The faithful know God, & how much we are loved!
 - This baby is for us . . . we can adore the baby, our Savior.
 - **Luke 2:11** – *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*
 - **Adore** – to love and respect deeply. How deep is your love?
 - At times, we love Him, but we don't respect Him
 - Respect – to give due regard for the wishes of another
 - The wish of Jesus was that we would love each other as He loved us – His command was "Love each other." **John 16**
- 3rd verse – "Yea, Lord we great Thee, born this happy morning...
 - Lord: one w/ power, authority; King.
 - *"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"* - **Mt. 2:2**
 - Not "Lord" if we don't obey His command.
 - Jesus is not the Shepherd if we don't follow.
- Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing."
 - Jesus is God in the flesh, present here with us.
 - The love of the Father walked on this earth.
 - Want to know God? Study the life of Jesus ... 4 gospels.
 - Jesus came: 1) so we could know God's love; 2) be together
- Will you go to Bethlehem . . . pursue a relationship - Jesus?
- Will you continue to be faithful, tho life is hard?
- Will you keep a joyful & triumphant attitude?
 - Our witness is powerful when we have joy in our hearts, smile on our face, confidence - nothing is impossible for God.
- Will you adore our Savior? Our Lord?

Song of the week: "O Come All Ye Faithful" - by Voctave.