

'TIS MIDNIGHT AND ON OLIVE'S BROW

I love the poetry and melody of the William Tappan hymn, "'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow." It is also rich with meaning, but because it was written 200 years ago, its wording may be difficult for younger worshippers to understand. Good worship requires not only proper actions, but mental engagement and a heart-connection with the lyrics.

The first verse begins, "'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow." Some may have no idea what that means. The song is about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane the night he was arrested and ultimately led to the cross. Tappan seems influenced by Luke's account. While scripture does not single out the hour of midnight, it does indicate Jesus was there at night (see Luke 22:56, 66; cf. John 18:3; Matthew 26:31, 34). Luke 22:39 indicates the garden's location as the Mount of Olives. "Brow" would be a poetic, late Middle English word for the top of a hill. The phrase, "The star is dimmed that lately shown" would simply reinforce the idea of darkness and the anxiety it would add to Jesus' suffering.

The second verse is self-explanatory, though it might help some to remember that the phrase, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20) appears to be a humble term John uses to describe himself in his gospel. "Heeds not" simply means "does not hear"; he had fallen asleep with the rest of Jesus' inner circle of disciples (Mark 14:37).

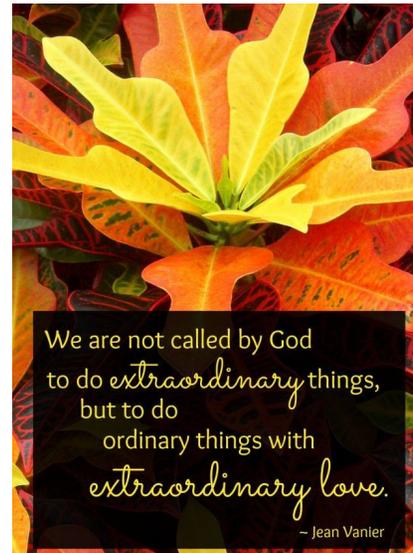
The third verse is also straightforward, though we have another allusion to Luke's gospel, with "the Man of Sorrows weeps in blood." Luke 22:44 tells us that Jesus, "being in agony" was praying "more earnestly," and His sweat became like drops of blood." The second line of this verse speaks of Jesus' kneeling in anguish (Luke 22:44), saying Christ was "falling down to the ground."

The last verse might cause trouble. "'Tis midnight, and from ether plains is borne the song that angels know," is, for many, incomprehensible. "Ether plains," is a poetic reference to "upper regions" or heaven. The song seems to allude to that part of the garden experience when "an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him" (Luke 22:43). While this verse seems to strain the meaning of Luke's words, it is a beautiful thought that angels or even the Father sang to comfort the suffering Son (cf. Hebrews 5:7).

We should take the time to understand the words of the songs we sing in worship. This keeps worship from being merely external, without heart (cf. Matthew 15:8). Perhaps, too, it serves as a notice that we should explain the meaning of older songs, especially those couched in language we do not use. It should also awaken the awareness that we need to incorporate songs in worship that are more contemporary in language and melody along with these beautiful, older songs. —Neal Pollard

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Dale Strong is in a regular room on the third floor until his infection is cleared; then he will either come home or continue rehab.
- ◆ Coe Hamm, young son of Brad and Kurston Suter Hamm, has been diagnosed with a rare genetic disease Leukodystrophy that affects his brain matter. There is no cure.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven. Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



Your job is to
NOT try to make
people like you or
to change people's
minds about you.

Your job is to **RUN**
your race, to be who
GOD has called
you to be, and **NOT**
worry about the
critics and the
naysayers.

It is not happy people who are
thankful; It is thankful
people who are happy.

My Quotes Diary

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
11-5	Bill Cockrum	11-4	Jim and Debra Lane
11-5	Melissa Rumenapp	11-16	Tinker and Karen Langston
11-7	Wanda Beard	11-16	Cayce and Rebecca Gosdin
11-13	Kay Young	Birthdays	
11-15	Kelly Lemberg	11-24	Lincoln Gosdin (4)
11-21	Merle Scott	11-25	Henry Flaugher
11-22	Larry Butler	11-28	Andrew Hambelton
11-24	Clifford Lansdown (85)		

There will be no suppers served on Wednesday, the 19th, because of the Thanksgiving Service and Wednesday, the 26th, because of Thanksgiving the next day.

Date	Event	Details
Wed. Nov. 19, 6 p.m. No supper or class here	Community Thanksgiving Service with potluck supper after	Halbert speaking at Lilly Ridge Church—Bring food to share
Dec. 22, 7 p.m.	Christmas Play	Kids presenting play

Send a birthday card to:
Clifford Lansdown, Room 311A
Hiram Shaddox Health & Rehab
1100 Pinetree Lane
Mountain Home, AR 72653

We aren't called to be like other Christians; we are called to be like Christ. See Romans 8:29-30

November Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Communion & Closing Prayer

11-16 Mark Lane
11-23 David Stevens
11-30 Don Luna

Tinker Langston
Titus Smith
Paul Wade

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

November 16, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Called, Loved, and Kept***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#23, *Our God, He Is Alive*; #123, *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

#334, *Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow*; Communion Service

#383, *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

Sermon and Invitation

#943; *Do You Know My Jesus?*

#1014, *Jesus Loves Me*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us