

# O Holy Night Lyrics PDF

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## Introduction to "O Holy Night"

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"O Holy Night," originally known as "Cantique de Noël," is a timeless Christmas carol that has touched the hearts of listeners for over a century. Composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 with lyrics by poet Placide Cappeau and later translated into English by John Sullivan Dwight, this song celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the night of his nativity. Its beautiful melody and poignant words make it a beloved piece of holiday music.

## Song Background

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### Origins

The song's French lyrics were written by Placide Cappeau, a wine merchant and poet, at the request of a local parish priest. Adolphe Adam composed the music, and "Cantique de Noël" was born. The English version, translated by Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight, gained popularity in the United States, especially during the Civil War due to its message of hope and redemption.

### Cultural Impact

"O Holy Night" has since become a staple of Christmas celebrations worldwide. It has been recorded and performed by countless artists across various genres, solidifying its place as one of the most iconic Christmas carols. The song's powerful message and soaring melody evoke the spiritual essence of the holiday season.

## Full Lyrics of "O Holy Night"

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Here are the complete lyrics to "O Holy Night":

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior'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!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our Friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Your King! Before Him bend!

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, then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

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## Historical Significance

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"O Holy Night" holds a special place in the history of Christmas carols. Its English lyrics, resonating with themes of faith, redemption, and social justice, contributed to its widespread adoption during the American Civil War. Today, it continues to be a favorite in holiday concerts, church services, and family gatherings, reminding us of the profound spiritual significance of Christmas.

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## Why "O Holy Night" Matters

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The carol's enduring legacy lies in its ability to convey the profound mystery and joy of Christ's birth. Its lyrical beauty and emotional depth evoke a sense of wonder and reverence, making "O Holy Night" a hymn that transcends time and cultural boundaries. It reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas and the universal message of hope and salvation.

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### Tags:

Christmas Songs, O Holy Night, Lyrics, Holiday Music, Carols, Christmas Carol, Faith, Redemption

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