

Week 3: O Come All Ye Faithful

Opening.

Psalms 95 invites us to behold and worship, O Come All Ye Faithful invites us to do the same. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is a translation of a Latin hymn *Adeste Fidelis*. The precise origins of the original hymn are not known, but it was probably written by John Francis Wade in the middle of the eighteenth century. The Latin version, or at least the first two words, meaning "come you faithful ones," is familiar to many of us today, partly because it has been covered by people like Andrea Bocelli, Bing Crosby, and Nat King Cole. The most popular English translation was done by Frederick Oakeley in 1852.

This carol is packed with amazing Christology: Verse 1 calls Him King of Angels, teaching us of His eternal origin; verse 2 are words straight out of the Nicene Creed: "God of God, Light of Light, He abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God Begotten, not created" shows us the nature of Jesus. Ultimate, this song calls for a response—a decision from us: What shall we do with the Messiah?

Look deeper.

- Read Luke 2:1-20.
- Find a Bible map to locate the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem. How far did Joseph and Mary travel and for what reason?
- Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17, Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2. What prophecies were fulfilled through Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. What did Jesus give up to come to us as a baby in a manger?
- Who did the angels first announce the birth of Christ to and how is this an example of God's grace? (hint: research the status of shepherds in society)
- In what ways did Jesus's first visitors point to who Jesus was and what he would do for all mankind?
- The angels brought a message of peace. What kind of peace does Jesus bring on earth? How does this differ from worldly views of peace?
- What was the response of the angels to the good news of great joy, and what was the response of the shepherds?
- What did the shepherds do after they found the baby in the manger and what example does this set for those who find Jesus today?
- Who is Jesus? What do we believe as Christians concerning His person and work? Read John 1:1-5, Colossian 1:15-20, Hebrews 10:5-10).

Share your insight.

- How would you feel if you were one of the shepherds who heard the angels on that first Christmas night?
- In what ways will you come to behold and adore Jesus this Christmas?

Spend time to pray.

- Pray for one another.
- Pray for people who you want to invite to our Christmas Eve Service.



MOSAIC CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERMON SERIES

The Carol

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. *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:*

2. *God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created;*

3. *Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:*

4. *Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord. Amen.*