

THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS:
#2 – O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:8-20

Origins: The lyrics were originally in Latin (Adeste Fideles) and are attributed to John Frances Wade, but probably originated by Cistercian monks. The English translation was done by Catholic priest Frederick Oakley. The tune's origins are vague, but often attributed to John Francis Wade.

I. Come!

- **All you _____** – Faithful (πιστός) loyal, constant (can be counted on), a strong sense of duty, to be faithful doesn't mean there are no struggles. You may be fearful (afraid) or fretful (a worrier), but in the end you can be faithful. To what are we to be faithful? To God's son – Jesus, to God's Will, to godly character, to God's service, to diving worship.

Who was faithful that Christmas night? Shepherds, dirty, smelly, low class shepherds. Their duties out in the fields required them to often miss synagogue services, temple sacrifices, and religious festivals. But, when the angel announced the birth of Christ, they were faithful and went. No matter who you are, will you be faithful and come?

- **All you _____** – Joy is different than happiness. Happiness is dependent on good things "happening" to you. Joy is dependent on Jesus reigning within you. The angel announced to the shepherds good news of great joy:
 - 1) A savior is born – We are saved from the consequences of self-destructive in. We are saved to eternal life with God.
 - 2) He is the Christ, the Lord – The anointed one of God that will lead us into His kingdom and govern over us for our spiritual welfare.
But the only way you can be joyful is to come to Jesus.
- **Come all you _____** – We are triumphant because we have spiritual victory!
 - 1) We have victory over death (I Corinthians 15:57). Death is no longer to be feared, but welcomed because of the promise of eternal life.
 - 2) We can have victory over our enemies (people, circumstances, or Satan) because God fights for us. He gives us spiritual victory. Because of our spiritual victory, He leads us in

“triumphal procession” in Christ as we live our lives (II Corinthians 2:14) spreading the “fragrance” (sweet smell) of Jesus.

- **Come to** _____ – The shepherds were directed to the “city of David” – Bethlehem (House of Bread) the hometown of King David. They were not directed to Jerusalem – the seat of local political power, and religion; or Rome the global seat of political power and riches. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem to show that the nature, character, and purpose of His kingship and kingdom were vastly different than earthly kings.

Jesus came to serve, not to be served. The riches He offers are spiritual, not material. His power is to be used to serve others, glorify God, and further His kingdom, not for selfish gain. God calls us to come to Bethlehem – God’s kingdom, will, and ways, rather than Jerusalem – religion’s way, or Rome – the world’s way of power and riches. Will you go to Bethlehem – approach God on His terms?

II. Adore!

- **Adore in** _____ – To adore is to love greatly, to honor highly, idolize, revere. Exultation is to rejoice greatly, be jubilant, to be triumphant. Adoring in exultation is super-powered praise and glory. It is giving glory to God in the highest – with great intensity.
- **Adore Jesus with** _____ – The angelic forces gave glory to God in the Highest, in the presence of shepherds. This was probably done in song. Today, we are God’s earthly angels (messengers) and our whole lives should “sing” adoration to God. Our worship service singing should also reflect giving glory to God in the Highest.
- **Adore giving Jesus all** _____ – The focus of the shepherds that night was on the amazement and glorifying the Christ child. Why? Since Jesus is the Son of God – God in the flesh, we are glorifying God by giving glory to His Son. Jesus is the living “Word of God” (John 1:1) the ultimate expression, revelation, and communication of God to the world. This is climaxed by the revelation, expression, and communication of God’s love by Christ on the Cross! All glory to Jesus!

This Christmas: Will you be faithful and come to Jesus expressing joy and triumph at the miracle of God’s love – the birth of His Son?

Will you adore Him in life and in song, focusing on glorifying Jesus as the Word of God?

Answers: I. Faithful; joyful; triumphant; Bethlehem. II. Song; exultation; glory.