

# O Holy Night



Today Long Lay the World in Sin and Error  
Pining

Christmas Eve 'Til He Appeared and The Soul Felt  
It's Worth

New Year's Eve A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World  
Rejoices

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 For Yonder Breaks a New and  
Glorious Morn

# Christmas is about the Incarnation

## John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The formula which enshrines the incarnation therefore is that in some sense God, without ceasing to be God, was made man.

Packer, J. I. (1996). Incarnation.

In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 501). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.





# O Holy Night

The Origin

# The origin of O Holy Night



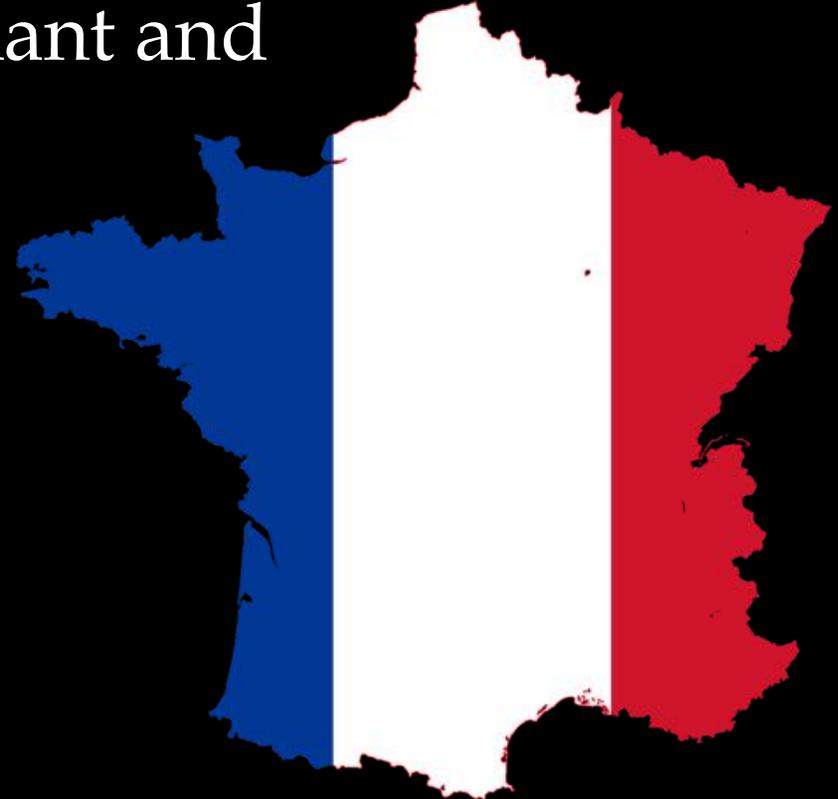
# The origin of O Holy Night



# The origin of O Holy Night



Placide Cappeau, 1808-1877  
Wine merchant and  
Poet



# The origin of O Holy Night

In a dusty coach traveling down a bumpy road to France's capitol city, Cappeau considered the priest's request. The poem obviously had to be religious, focus on Christmas, and be based on Scripture. Using the gospel of Luke as his guide,

Cappeau imagined witnessing the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Thoughts of being present on the blessed night inspired him. By the time the commissioner arrived in Paris, the poem "Minuit, chrétiens" had been completed.



# O Holy Night

The Biblical Account

# O Holy Night – The Biblical Account

## Luke 2:1-20

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son...

# O Holy Night – The Biblical Account

## Luke 2:1-20

...She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

# O Holy Night – The Biblical Account

## Luke 2:1-20

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” 15 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.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

# O Holy Night – The Biblical Account

## Luke 2:1-20

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



# O Holy Night

Minuit, chrétiens!

Minuit, chrétiens,  
C'est l'heure solennelle  
Où l'Homme Dieu  
descendit jusqu'à nous  
Pour effacer la tache  
originelle Et de Son Père  
arrêter le courroux.  
Le monde entier tressaille  
d'espérance  
En cette nuit qui lui donne  
un Sauveur.

Midnight, Christians,  
Is the solemn hour  
When God as man  
descended unto us  
To clear the original sin  
And to end the wrath of his  
Father.  
The whole world thrills  
with hope  
On this night that gives it a  
Savior.

Peuple à genoux,  
Attends ta délivrance!  
Noël! Noël!  
Voici le Rédempteur!  
Noël! Noël!  
Voici le Rédempteur!  
Le Rédempteur  
A brisé toute entrave:  
La terre est libre et le ciel  
est ouvert.  
Il voit un Frère où n'était  
qu'un esclave;

People, kneel down, await  
your deliverance!  
Christmas! Christmas!  
Here is the Redeemer!  
Christmas! Christmas!  
Here is the Redeemer!  
The Redeemer has broken  
every bond:  
The Earth is free and  
Heaven is open.  
He sees a brother where  
there was only a slave;

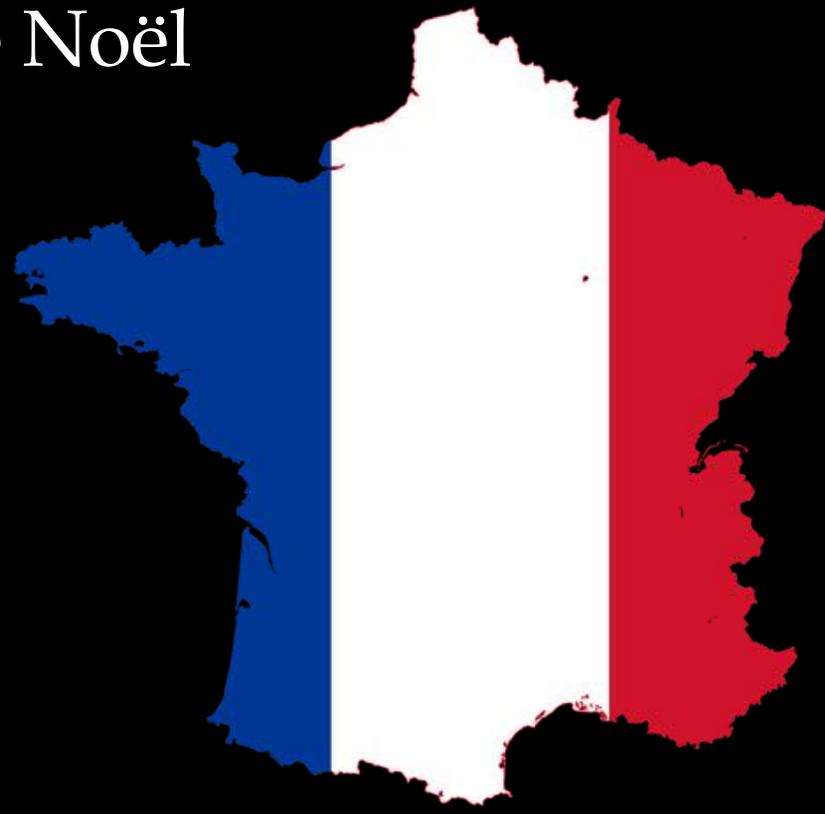
L'amour unit ceux  
qu'enchaînait le fer.  
Qui Lui dira notre  
reconnaissance?  
C'est pour nous tous qu'Il  
naît, Qu'Il souffre et meurt.  
Peuple debout,  
Chante ta délivrance!  
Noël! Noël!  
Chantons le Rédempteur!  
Noël! Noël!  
Chantons le Rédempteur!

Love unites those that iron  
had chained.  
Who will tell him of our  
gratitude?  
For all of us He is born, He  
suffers and dies.  
People, stand up!  
Sing of your deliverance!  
Christmas! Christmas!  
Sing of the Redeemer!  
Christmas! Christmas!  
Sing of the Redeemer!

# The origin of O Holy Night



Adolphe Adam, 1803-1856  
Cantique de Noël



# The origin of O Holy Night

As Adolphe studied “Minuit, chrétiens,” he couldn’t help but note its overtly spiritual lyrics embracing the birth of a Savior. A man of Jewish ancestry, these words represented a holiday he didn’t celebrate and a man he did not view as the Son of God. Nevertheless, moved by more than friendship, Adams quickly and diligently went to work, attempting to marry an original score to Cappeau’s beautiful words. Adams’s finished work pleased both poet and priest. It was performed just three weeks later at a midnight mass on Christmas.

Collins, Ace. *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (pp. 133). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

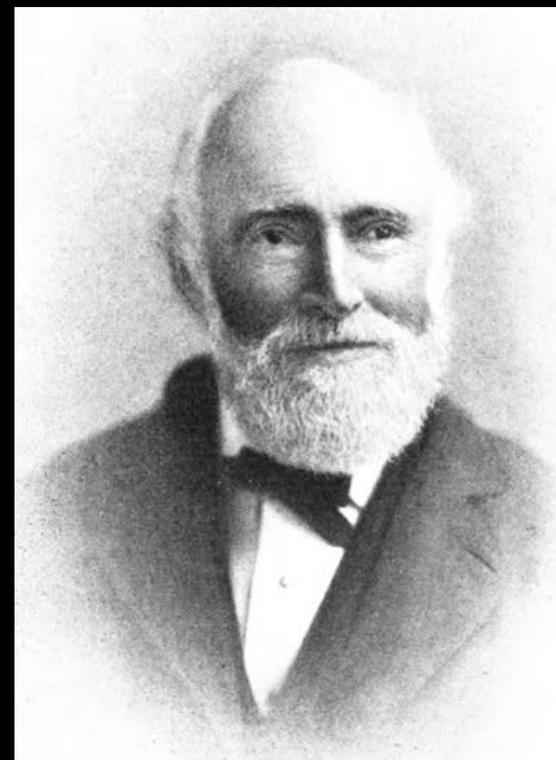
# The origin of O Holy Night



# The origin of O Holy Night



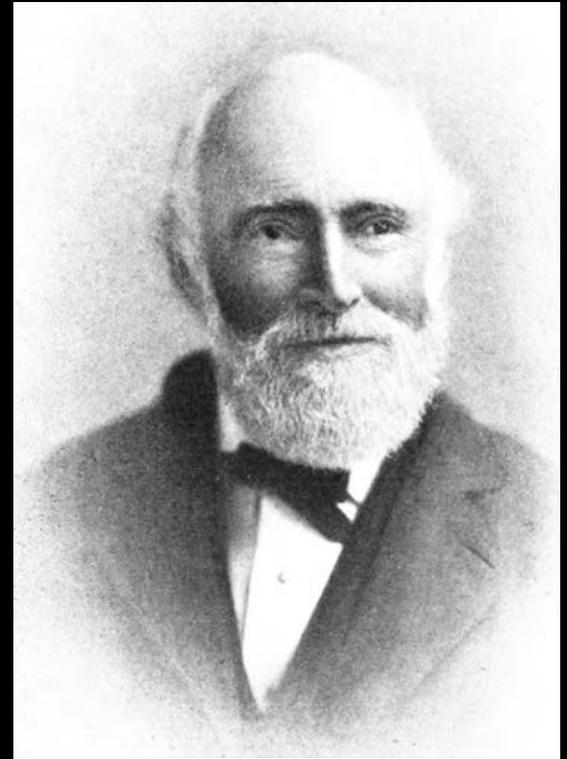
John Sullivan Dwight



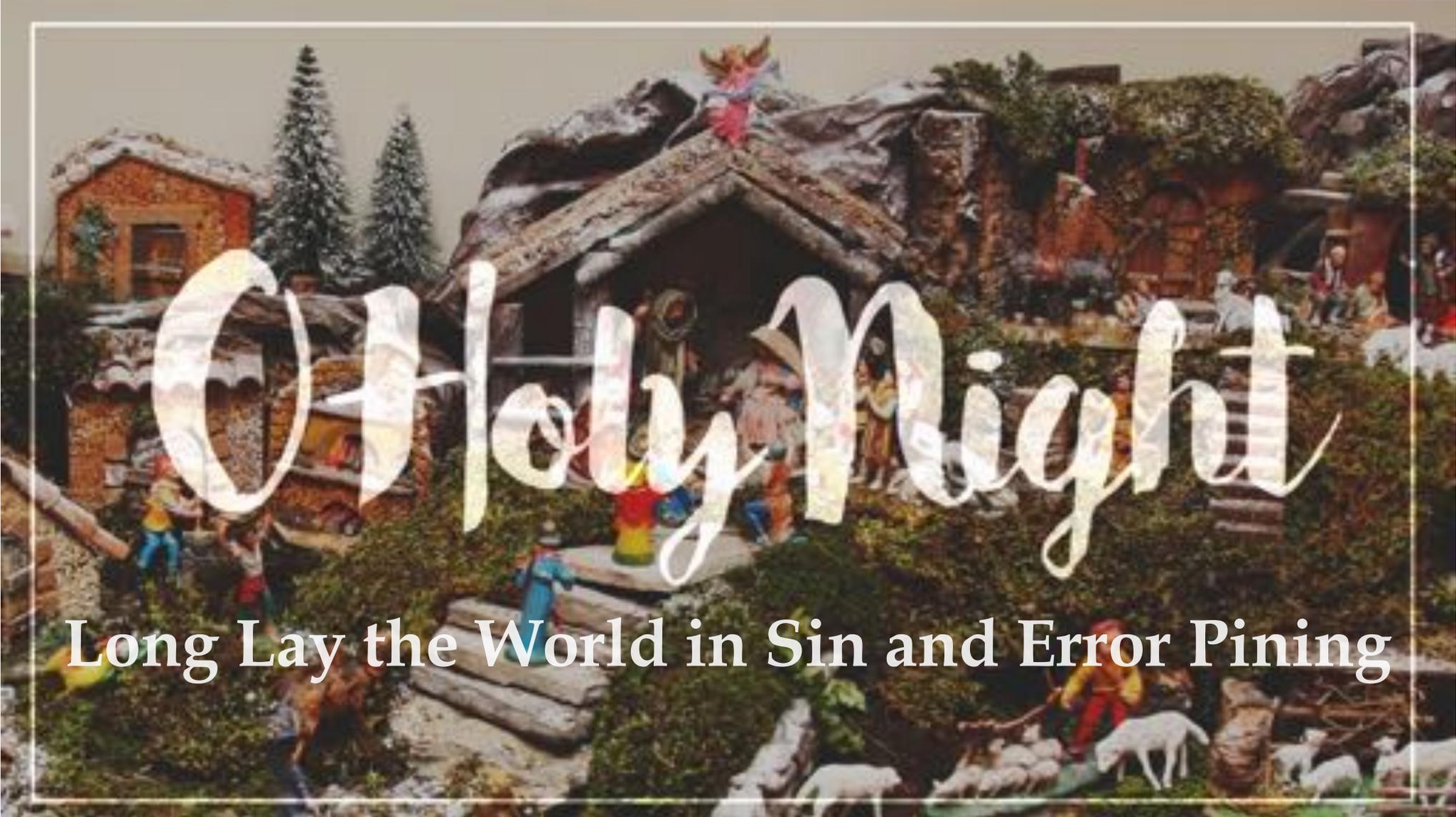
# The origin of O Holy Night

Dwight became a Unitarian minister in Northampton, Massachusetts, but for inexplicable reasons grew physically ill each time he had to address his congregation. These panic attacks magnified to such an extent that Dwight often locked himself in his home, scared to venture out in public. It soon became obvious he would be unable to continue in the ministry. Gifted and bright, Dwight sought other ways to use his talent. An accomplished writer, he used his skills to found Dwight's Journal of Music.

Collins, Ace. *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (pp. 134). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.



As Dwight looked for new material to review, Dwight read “Cantique de Noel” in French...Not only did Dwight feel that this wonderful Christmas song needed to be introduced to America, he saw something else in the song that moved him beyond the story of the birth of Christ. An ardent abolitionist, Dwight strongly identified with the lines, “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!” The text supported Dwight’s own view of slavery in the South. The writer believed that Christ came to free all men, and in this song all men would be confronted with the fact.



# O Holy Night

Long Lay the World in Sin and Error Pining

# O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

CCLI #1181771

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Oh 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.

*“Long lay the world in sin...”*

**Romans 3:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. <sup>10</sup> As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

<sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands;  
there is no one who seeks God.

<sup>12</sup> All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one.”

*“... and in error pining...”*

**1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” 1 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

*“... and in error pining...”*

**1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

*“...Till He appeared...”*

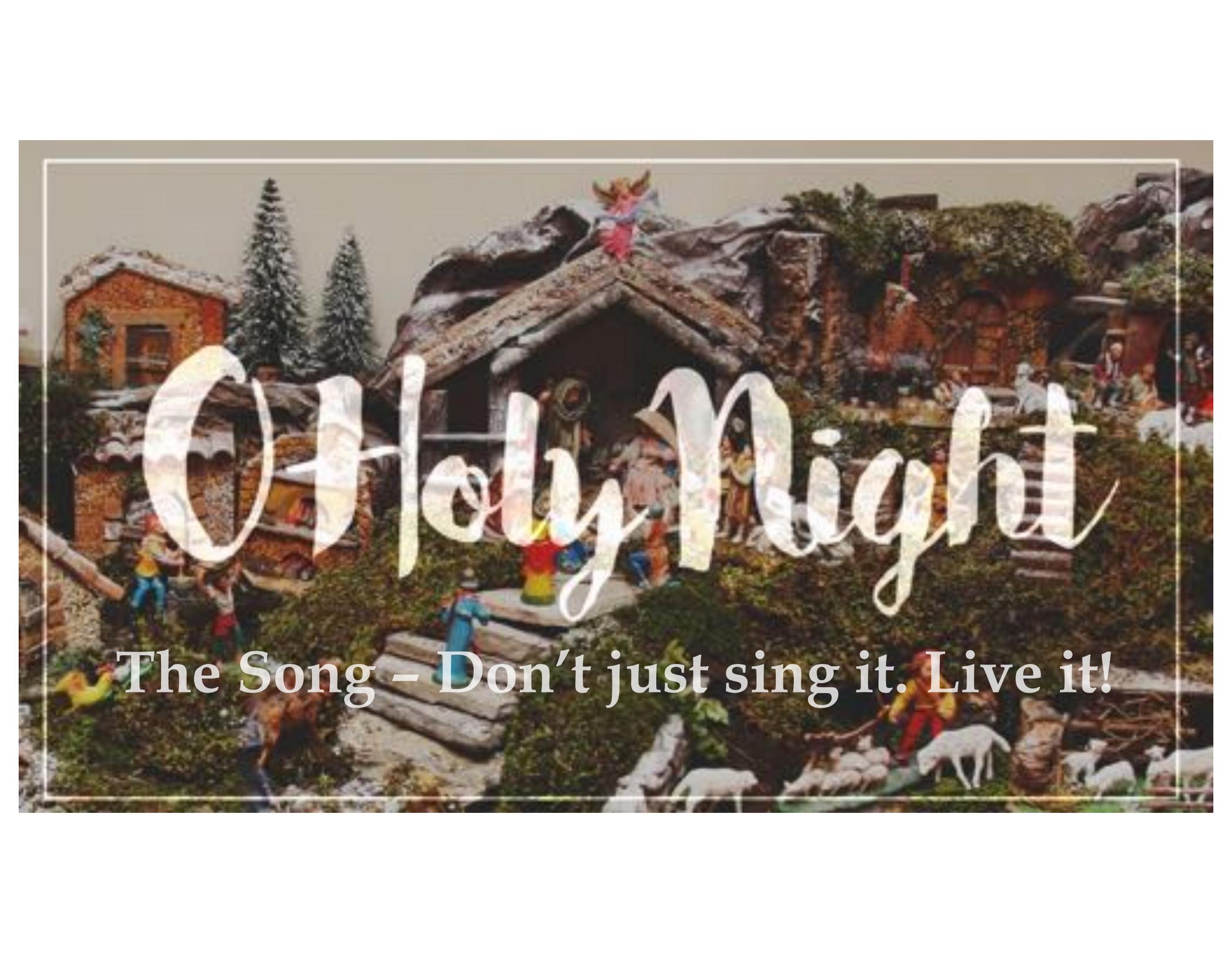
**John 1:9-13**

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

*“... and the soul felt its worth”*

**John 1:9-13**

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.



# O Holy Night

The Song - Don't just sing it. Live it!

# O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

CCLI #1181771

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Oh 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! Oh, hear the angel voices!

Oh night divine,

Oh night when Christ was born;

Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.

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.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices  
Oh night divine,  
Oh night when Christ was born;  
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.

Christ is the Lord!

O praise His Name forever,

His power and glory evermore proclaim.

His power and glory evermore proclaim.