

## December 23: O Holy Night



**Pray:** *Dear Heavenly Father, as we move through this Christmas season, please help us to share your story and love to those around us. As we sing the songs of good tidings and joy, let us be an example of Christ to all. Help us to remember what the baby in the manger on that holy night became and did for us. Amen.*

**Read:** “And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

From the beginning of “O Holy Night,” this song shows a reverence and wonder at the birth of Jesus on a starlit night. It presents the world to be in sin and wrong-doing for a long time until He was born, thus bringing hope to them. Today, it seems we share this same type of world, as we are overcome with the sin that runs rampant around us. Murder, drugs, human trafficking, and the lack of caring about one another are only a few of our problems. It seems that we are waiting, also, for the return of the One who brought “a thrill of hope” to a broken world. This song declares that we should fall on our knees and hear the angel voices as on the night that Christ was born, and return in repentance to the One who so generously came for us.

In our world today, so many need help and care, not just physically because of the disasters that have been happening. And as the song tells us, “Truly, He taught us to love one another. His law is love and His gospel is peace.” In John 13:34, we find the new commandment given to us by Christ. He says: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” What would a world of love be like? Chains of slavery and oppression shall cease!! Are we slaves to something in this world that keeps us from spending time doing things for Christ? We can become slaves to work, social media, eating, and many things that do not enable us to spend time in learning and doing Christ’s work.

Having heard “O Holy Night” sung by many, I still marvel at the reverence the verses bring, and the great joy and declaration that comes as each powerful chorus is sung. The first chorus tells us to “fall on our knees” and to hear the angel voices proclaiming the birth of Christ. The second chorus declares that “Christ is Our Lord,” and to ever proclaim His glory and power. Yes, we need to proclaim this truth to all who will hear it.

-- Joyce Detwiler

