

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Four – Day 17

O Holy Night

In 1847, Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure was the commissionaire of wines in a small French town. Known more for his poetry than his church attendance, it probably shocked Placide when his parish priest asked the commissionaire to pen a poem for Christmas mass. Nevertheless, the poet was honored to share his talents with the church. In a dusty coach traveling down a bumpy road to France's capital city, Placide Cappeau considered the priest's request. 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 he arrived in Paris, "Cantique de Noel" had been completed. Moved by his own work, Cappeau decided that his "Cantique de Noel" was not just a poem, but a song in need of a master musician's hand. Not musically inclined himself, the poet turned to one of his friends, Adolphe Charles Adams. Adams' finished work pleased both poet and priest. The song was performed just three weeks later at a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. (By Beliefnet, beleifnet.com)

Craft Ideas: <https://tablelifeblog.com/o-holy-night/>

Video by Josh Groban: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17killxSdC0>

O holy night! The stars are brightly
shining, It is the night of our dear
Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin
and error pining, Till He appear'd 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 divine, O night,
O night Divine.

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! Let ever ever
praise Thee, Noel, Noel O night, o
night divine. Noel, Noel, O night, o
night divine; Noel, Noel O night, o
night divine!

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- Why do you think God values you? (Read Matthew 6:25-27)
- Being a baby was just the beginning for Jesus. Why do you think is it so much more important to keep going to the cross and the resurrection of Jesus?
- How do you think the words, "*Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth,*" relate to Romans 3:23 & 6:23?

Digging Deeper

1. What is it about this song that just cannot stop at Jesus' birth? (Read Isaiah 53:5)
2. Describe the value that God places on you because of Christ?
3. What is your state of mind and heart when you imagine "*sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus?*" How can you exhibit this attitude and actions in spite of any turmoil going on in your life?
4. What is it that you want to stop right now and praise Him for?

