







O holy night

 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
'Til 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.
O night divine; O night when
Christ was born. 
O night divine; O night when
Christ was born.

Humbly He lay, Creator
come as creature,
Born on the floor of a hay
scattered stall;
 True Son of God, yet
bearing human feature,
He entered earth to
reverse Adam's fall.
In towering grace He laid
aside His glory
And in our place was
sacrificed for sin.
Fall on your knees, oh hear
the gospel story.
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born.
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born. 

Come then to Him who lies
within the manger;
 With joyful shepherds 
proclaim Him as Lord;
Let not the Promised Son
remain a stranger;
In reverent worship make
Christ your adored.
Eternal life is theirs who
will receive Him;
With grace and peace their
lives He will adorn.
Fall on your knees, receive the
gift of heaven.
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born
O night divine, O night when
Christ was born.



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c/o Unit C, Tomlinson Road, Leyland, PR25 2DY, UK

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O Holy Night



Whenever I hear a rendition of

'O holy night'

it gives me a tingle down the spine. It really doesn't matter who sings it: Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, or Luciano Pavarotti – it's an iconic Christmas carol, with a great tune and great words. But what was so 'holy' about that first Christmas night?



It was a holy night because it was the night that heaven came to earth.

The God who made everything entered our world as a tiny baby.

Christmas is about the Creator of all things coming into the world He had made. God was big enough to become small. The world that had been made perfectly, was spoilt as we rejected God and turned our back on Him. But despite all that has gone on in our world, God did not wash His hands of us. As a famous carol says:

*He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

Heaven came to earth.

It was a holy night because God was making a way from earth to heaven.

When Jesus was born the world was just like it is today. There was pain and sadness. There was violence, unfaithfulness, relationship breakdown and selfishness. The world was broken. From almost the beginning of time people have turned their backs on God, living as if He is dead or does not exist. The Bible calls this sin, and it cuts us off from God. It breaks our relationship with Him, keeps us out of heaven and condemns us to hell.

But Jesus, whose name means Saviour, came to save us from that. He loves us enough to have come to earth to rescue us. He is God, entering our world so that He might bring us back into a right relationship with Himself.

It was a holy night because the wooden crib where Jesus slept was but a step to the wooden cross where Jesus suffered.



He was born to die. Jesus lived a pure and perfect life. But as He died on the cross He took on Himself *our* wrong, taking the sentence we deserve. That's how much He loves us. He put on Himself everything that spoils His world.

It was a holy night because angels came with a message from God:

"I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

Did they know that one day that baby would grow to teach, to heal, to be the example for all to follow but to be crucified, buried and then three days later rise from the dead? It was the only way He could be the Saviour of the world.

The holy night of the first Christmas can become for us the beginning of a new life. If we are willing to turn from all that is wrong in our life, and thank Jesus for coming to earth for us, then ask the risen, living Jesus to become your Lord and Saviour as you start to follow Him.



It is the moment we were born for, when we enter a relationship with God that will last forever.