

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL Worksheet

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Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Verse 2

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

Verse 4

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

Verse 5

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Verse 6

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

Vocabulary In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: triumphant, ye

Refrain: adore

Verse 2: shuns, begotten

Verse 3: exultation, citizens, glory

Verse 4: summoned, nigh, thither

Verse 5: manger, embrace, Thee, awe

Verse 6: flesh

Word Pictures Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: O come ye; joyful and triumphant

Verse 2: Light from Light Eternal

Verse 3: choirs of angels sing in exultation; citizens of heaven

Verse 4: shepherds summoned

Verse 5: sinners poor

Verse 6: happy morning

Mechanics are the nuts and bolts of a poem. Verbally discuss.

Who is the speaker? (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character? (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone? (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

Does the poem have a setting? (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

Is the poem about a particular event? (Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?)

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly? (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

What point of view or perspective is the speaker? (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time? (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: Why are the "faithful" joyful and triumphant? Did you notice the author used the term "ye"? Why do you think that term was used? Where does the author say we are to go? Did you notice Him and King are capitalized? Why? What does "born the King of angels" mean? Why would this be important?

Refrain: Why does the author recommend we "adore" Him? What exactly does it mean to adore? Why would this be important?

Verse 2: Explain and discuss: "True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal." Why would the author say, "He shuns not the Virgin's womb"? What does this mean? Why does the author make the distinction of "begotten, not created"? Why is this important? (*Hint: See Hebrews 13:8; Genesis 1:1, etc.*)

Verse 3: Why does the author tell the angels to "sing in exultation"? Why should the "citizens of heaven" sing? What occurred that was so important? Explain and discuss: "Glory to God, all glory in the highest."

Verse 4: Who was summoned? Where were they summoned? What did they leave? What did those that were summoned do? Did you notice the author's use of the word "thither"? What does it mean and why do you think the author used this term? Explain and discuss: "We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps."

Verse 5: Why do you think sinners are described as "poor"? Do you think poor means in material wealth or in spirit or both? Why? What do you think the author means? Did you notice the term Thee and that it was capitalized? Why do you think the author used this word and why is it capitalized? Explain and discuss: "We would embrace Thee, with love and awe." What does "loving us so dearly" mean? Why do you think the author made reference to this in the poem?

Verse 6: Who is being greeted? Why? The author states "Jesus, to Thee be glory given." Why? Do you agree/disagree with the author? Prove your assertion (e.g., give Scriptural references). Explain and discuss: "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing." How can a Word be flesh?

Did this historical event or message become more real to you after reading this poem? Why?

After reading this poem, what character traits did you think of? What does the Bible have to say about these character traits?

What Does the Bible Say?

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the six verses and the refrain.

Re-read the Gospel accounts of the Nativity along with Isaiah 53.

The Author/Poet

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The name of the author for this poem or lyric is John Francis Wade (1710-1786). He was born 1710, possibly in England, and died 16 August 16, 1786, Douay, France. This Roman Catholic laymen fled England during the Jacobean Rebellion to France in 1745. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) translated verses 1, 2, 3, and 6 from Latin to English. Oakeley was born 5 September 1802, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, and died 29 January 29, 1880, Islington, Middlesex, England. William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) translated verses 4 and 5 to English.

Geography

Locate France and England on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Douay (France), Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Islington, and Middlesex on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast weather from France and/or England with your own for one week.

Make an English and/or French meal for your family.

Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be seven different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the event or message discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the historical event or message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., Alfred the Great, Patrick Henry, Paul, repentant sinners, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

5) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author's view of the impact of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about John Francis Wade (1710-1786), Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), and William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.