

O Come All Ye Faithful

Words: John F. Wade, circa 1743. Verses 1-3 & 6 translated from Latin to English by Frederock Oakeley, 1841; verses 4 & 5 translated by William T. Brooke (1848-1917).

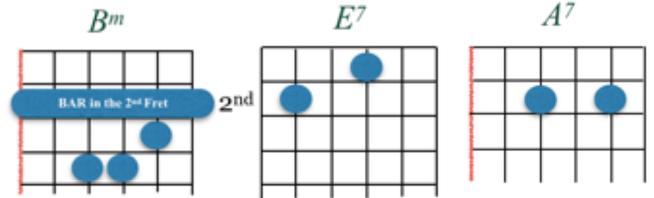
D A D A D G D A
O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

B^m A E A E⁷ A D A E⁷ A A⁷
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.

D A⁷ D A D B^m E⁷ A
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

D D A D G D A
O come let us adore Him, o come let us a-dore Him,

D A⁷ D E⁷ E A⁷ D G D A⁷ D
O come let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord!



D A D A D G D A
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,

B^m A E A E⁷ A D A E⁷ A A⁷
Sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven above;

D A⁷ D A D B^m E⁷ A
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

D D A D G D A
O come let us adore Him, o come let us a-dore Him,

D A⁷ D E⁷ E A⁷ D G D A⁷ D
O come let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord!

D A D A D G D A
Adeste Fideles, laeti tri-umphantes,

B^m A E A E⁷ A D A E⁷ A A⁷
Veni - te, Ve - ni - i - te ad Bethlehem,

D A⁷ D A D B^m E⁷ A
Natum vide- te, regum an - ge-lorum.

D D A D G D A
Venite adoremus! Venite a-dore - mus!,

D A⁷ D E⁷ E A⁷ D G D A⁷ D
Veni - te a-dore - mus! Do - mi num!

Scripture and History

Psalm 95:1 and 6 ¹Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; cry out to the rock of our salvation. ⁶Enter, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

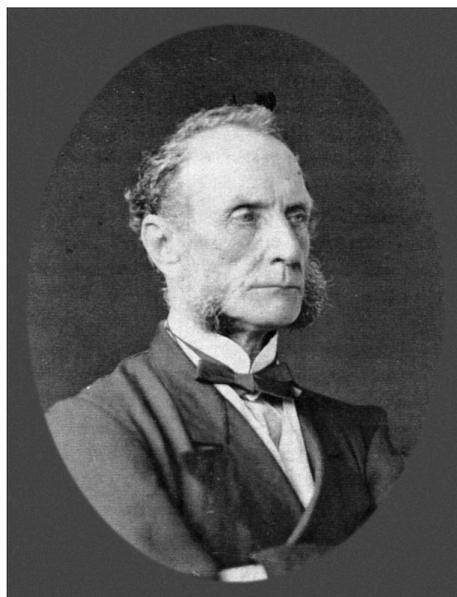
Luke 19:38 They proclaimed: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”

“**O Come, All Ye Faithful**” is one of the few carols to land on record charts, making it to the top 10 three times in 1905, 1915, and 1944. It’s been translated into over 150 languages, used in thousands of Christmas celebrations every year, and called by some critics “the greatest carol ever written.” The author however was not known until just after WWII.

English scholar Maurice Frost discovered seven “O Come, All Ye Faithful” hand written transcripts signed by an English Catholic priest named John Francis Wade.



Image from YouTube



John Francis Wade
Image from [Wigglepedia - Fandom](#)

Wade fled England in 1745 during a high point of strife in the Protestant / Catholic conflicts. When he settled in France, he was given the job of researching, identifying and preserving historical church music in order to minimize the loss of these songs due to the conflicts.

A calligrapher by training as well as a skilled musician, Wade saved not only historical church songs, he then organized and distributed them to Catholic churches throughout Europe. Through his beautifully detailed drawings and manuscripts, the priest reintroduced many forgotten songs to masses across France and beyond. He also wrote his own pieces, mostly in Latin.

He finished the melody for, ”Adeste Fideles” about 1750 then completed the lyrics about a decade later.

From “Stories Behind the Best-loved Songs of Christmas” by Andrew Collins, 2001