

OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

BY MATT BLACKWELL

For over 250 years people have been singing this song of praise & for us today the message remains the same: come. Come and behold Him. Come and worship Him. Come and adore Him.

THE FIRST SECTION OF THIS HYMN PRESENTS THE FAMILIAR INCARNATIONAL THEME OF JOY.

*O come, all ye faithful, **Joyful** and triumphant!*

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:8-11

Jesus came to bring joy that lasts & so joy is a hallmark of the Christ follower.

Philippians 4:4 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Romans 12:12 tells us to, “Be joyful in hope”

1 Peter 4:13 encourages us to, “Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16 commands us to, “Be joyful always”

Christ's coming is GOOD NEWS that produces GREAT JOY.

THIS HYMN DRAWS ON THE INCARNATIONAL LANGUAGE OF JOHN CHAPTER 1.

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!*

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
John 1*

There is so much rich truth in John 1 it would be difficult to record it all here, but if we were to summarize the major themes we would see that:

1. Jesus is eternally God: He was with God and was God.
2. Jesus was called the Word: God communicating & expressing Himself to humanity.
3. Jesus is the Creator: all things were made through him, but he himself was not made.
4. Jesus is life and light: the living power to see and the all-satisfying splendor to be seen.
5. Jesus put on flesh & dwelt among us: God came near.

All of this compels us to come and sing in adoration "*Jesus, to thee be all glory given!*"