

## HUMC CHRISTMAS HYMN TRIVIA\*

Below are descriptions of favorite Christmas hymns. Read and decide what they are. Words in “quotes” might be found in the hymn. An alphabetical list of possible hymns will be following the descriptions. Happy singing!!

1. This African-American spiritual was made popular by the Fisk Jubilee Singers in the late 1800s telling the good news “over the hills and everywhere”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

2. This hymn was written by Charles Wesley. His “welken rings” was mistakenly rewritten as “angels sing” saying “glory to the newborn king”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

3. This hymn was inspired by Psalm 98 in making a joyful noise unto the Lord knowing even “heaven and nature “ will sing this joy. It was written by Watts and Mason, two men who pushed the envelope in order to get people to see Scripture and music in a whole new way.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

4. This hymn’s melody *Adeste Fideles* and lyrics was written by a Catholic Clerk, John Wade, who preserved church history. It calls us to “O come, let us adore Him”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

5. An Irishman’s poem *Nativity* penned in a revolutionary paper against British rule is the source for this hymn. It tells us to “come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

6. This hymn’s chorus, as we sing it in Latin, means in English “Glory to God in the Highest” speaks of the incredible relationship between heaven and earth.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

7. This hymn’s tune is called “Luther’s Cradle Hymn”. This popular children’s song can be a lullaby as a baby hears “The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

8. This English(or French) folk song was sung as the Yule Log is lit, starting the Christmas season celebrating “born is the King of Israel”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

9. This hymn offering “O tidings of comfort and joy” earned a prominent spot in Dickens “A Christmas Carol”.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Written by two men prosecuted for their religious convictions in the 1300s, this hymn was for the common people in Germany stating, "Christ is born today", "Christ was born for this" and "Christ was born to save".

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the cadence of his poem, and this hymn, was inspired by the ringing of Christmas bells and "their old familiar carols" that they played.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Dr. Edmund Sears, seeing the poverty and slavery issues before the Civil War, wanted nothing more than "Peace on the earth, good will to men" as stated in this hymn.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Known as a song of the "Great Antiphons" or "Great O's", the initial Latin text of this hymn's seven verses represented different biblical views of the Messiah including "rod of Jesse", "Dayspring" and "Key of David".

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Lyrics by a wine commissioner and melody by a Jew, this hymn was, at one time, rejected by the French Catholic church. However, who could say no to a "night divine" and a "night when Christ was born" for too long.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

15. A well known preacher, Phillips Brooks, needed a sabbatical following the Civil War and preaching President Lincoln's funeral. He went to the Holy Land and was inspired by the remote village of Bethlehem. He wrote this hymn to convey his feelings to his congregation.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Created out of necessity and performed in a tiny Austrian village on Christmas Eve, a tiny choir performed this hymn accompanied by a guitar since the church's organ was broken. At our church, this hymn is sung at the end of a Christmas Eve service.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Paul Harrington was helping assemble a new Methodist hymnal. Needing inspiration, he read a poem by Josiah Holland, went over to an organ and set the poem to music. The words "Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!" first appeared in the 1905 new Methodist hymnal.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

18. John Henry Hopkins, an ordained priest of the Episcopal church, wanted to write a song to remember the childlike spirit of the Epiphany. It's about "bearing gifts", too.

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

19. This Victorian carol associated with King Henry VIII was forever tied to "Greensleeves" when Shakespeare used it in one of his plays. William Dix, centuries later, wrote "The Manger Throne" and was coupled with the popular tune, a fitting tribute to "the babe, the son of Mary".

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

20. This hymn presents Jesus Christ as a flower that blooms in the dead of night and the cold of winter. What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

21. In the cold frosty world, Jesus came to us. In this hymn's last line, one with the most meaning to me, it says "what can I give Him: give Him my heart".

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Another Charles Wesley hymn, it states Christ Jesus "born to set thy people free".

What is this hymn? \_\_\_\_\_

Angels from the Realm of Glory

Angels We have Heard on High

Away in a Manger

Birthday of A King

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Go Tell it on the Mountain

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

In the Bleak Midwinter

It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Joy to the World

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

O Come All ye Faithful

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Holy Night

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Once in Royal David's City

Silent Night

The First Noel

There's a Song in the Air

We Three Kings of Orient Are

What Child is This?

\*info from "Stories behind the best-loved Songs of Christmas" by Ace Collins