



Holy Night

The Inspiration. The Challenge.



O Holy Night

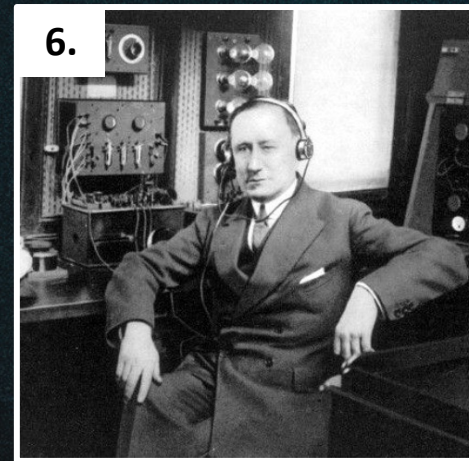
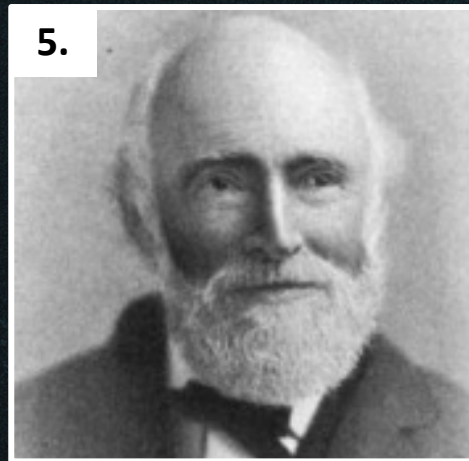
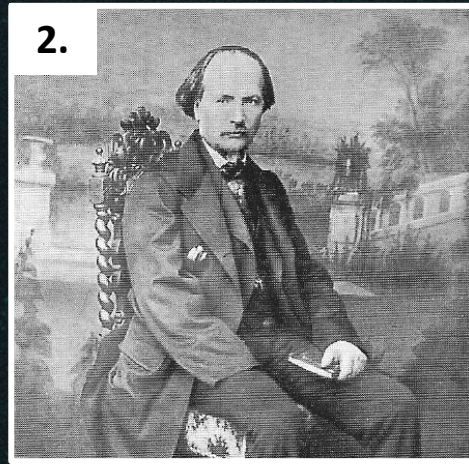
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Part 4

Chains Shall He Break

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Ephesians 6:5-9



1. **Original Commission:**
Father Joseph-Marie Gilles
(ca. 1780-1846)

2. **Original Words:**
Placide Cappeau
(1808-1877)

3. **Original Music:**
Adolphe-Charles Adam
(1803-1856)

4. **Original Performance:**
Emilie Lauret
(ca. 1828-1904)

5. **Original English Translation:**
Rev. John Sullivan Dwight
(1813-1893)

6. **Original Radio Broadcast:**
Reginald Fessenden
(1866-1932)



Our Highlight from Verse 1

Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

*God wanted so much for us to become a part of his
family that he became part of ours.*

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Lost in Translation from Verse 1

- Christmas as “the solemn hour”
- Jesus Christ as “the God-Man” come among us
- “Original sin” as the problem for which Christ is the solution
- The “Father’s wrath” (against sin) that needed to be appeased



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Our Highlight from Verse 2

**In all our trials born to be our Friend!
He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.**

***Christmas shows that God cares about our every
need.***

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Lost in Translation from Verse 2

- The pervasiveness of human pride
- The humble birth of Christ as a rebuke to that pride
- Human pride needs to be confronted through the Christian preaching of the gospel



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Our Highlight from Verse 3

**Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.**

***God entered the human race through a descendant
of slaves to set us free.***

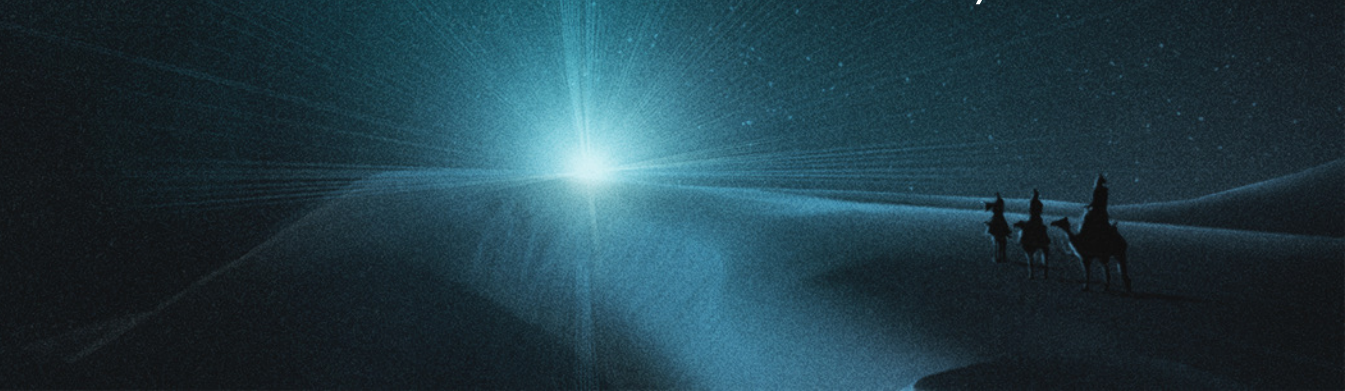
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Cappeau: Le Rédempteur a brisé toute entrave,
English: The Redeemer has broken all shackles.
Dwight: Truly He taught us to love one another;

Cappeau: La Terre est libre et le Ciel est ouvert.
English: The earth is free, and heaven is open.
Dwight: His law is love and His Gospel is peace.

Cappeau: Il voit un frère où n'était qu'un esclave,
English: He sees a brother where there was once but a slave;
Dwight: Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,



Cappeau: L'amour unit ceux qu'enchaînait le fer.
English: Love unites those who restrain the sword.
Dwight: And in His Name all oppression shall cease.

Cappeau: Qui lui dira notre reconnaissance?
English: Who will tell him our gratitude?
Dwight: Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Cappeau: C'est pour nous tous qu'il naît, qu'il souffre et meurt.
English: It is for us all that he was born, that he suffered and died.
Dwight: Let all within us praise His holy Name!



Our Highlight from Verse 3

Once again, Dwight's theology—not Cappeau's lyrics—drives the translation. Verse 3 elevates an important biblical ethic (viz., loving others and standing against oppression) but eliminates part of the gospel in the process.



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Lost in Translation from Verse 3

- Christ, the Redeemer
- Christ has already broken all shackles
- Christ has already freed earth and opened heaven
- Christ was born, suffered, and died for all humanity



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The PERSONAL Dimension of Christmas



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The PERSONAL Dimension of Christmas

The incarnation speaks of human nobility.



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The PERSONAL Dimension of Christmas

The incarnation speaks of human nobility.

The incarnation speaks of human equality.



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The PERSONAL Dimension of Christmas

The incarnation speaks of human nobility.

The incarnation speaks of human equality.

God was first made manifest in the flesh inside the flesh of another human being.

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*God entered the human race through a
descendant of slaves to set us free.*



The POLITICAL Dimension of Christmas



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The POLITICAL Dimension of Christmas

To those under authority:
Remember the contentment of Christ.



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The POLITICAL Dimension of Christmas

To those under authority:
Remember the contentment of Christ.

To those wielding authority:
Remember the kindness of Christ.



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The POLITICAL Dimension of Christmas

We can begin to conquer our own oppression by adjusting our attitude before adjusting our circumstances.

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descendant of slaves to set us free.*





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