



2020 is a year of turbulence and unending changes. The whole world shook! Globally, the Covid19 pandemic has plagued nations and even places unheard of with tremendous pain and suffering. No one is immune...from world leaders to our next door neighbours, from the palaces to the slums, ...we have heard stories. We rejoice over recoveries and grieve over losses! It's a yo-yo of emotions throughout the unwanted thrill of events this year. The toll Covid19 has taken on lives and livelihoods is still ongoing and its effects are affecting lives beyond just the physical...to the mental, emotional, social, and

spiritual and so forth! How we are as worshippers gathered has so many of us being scattered, feeling lost and displaced. Covid19 has robbed us of singing and fellowship in our congregations when we can't sing out loud in church or linger to cheer each other on. We rise up and find creative ways to gather, to sing and to encourage each other to press on. The modes may be different but the God we worship is still Who He says He is. We worship a sovereign God Who is the Alpha and Omega. He is still with us. Emmanuel! Jesus is the same – yesterday, today and forever! The Holy Spirit is Jesus in our hearts and though we can't sing out loud, yet we still have much to sing!

So, how about singing a Christmas Carol in a new way...in prayer! Let us prayerfully sing and listen closely to the soft lyrics of **O Holy night!** If you know this song, will you close your eyes and allow your mind to take you to that holy night when Christ was born. If you like, listen to this Carol or Spotify or on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plAMlz\\_Or9c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plAMlz_Or9c). Sadly many versions have removed the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse. However, listening to good singing can be truly worshipful. So enjoy nevertheless. Listen or sing worshipfully and prayerfully. Sing repeatedly. Let your mind soak in the richness of this hymn.

### Verse 1

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

### Prayerful Reflections

*Breathe deeply in & out. Ponder awhile, the stillness of a holy night.*

*With all that has happened this year, when might you have had a holy "God-appearing" moment? Was there something that brought you a thrill of hope? Praise God now.*

*Christ our Saviour was born to a world in sin. The world still chooses to go its own ways. This year, what has made you weary? Tell God.*

### Verse 2

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our friend  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

### Prayerful Reflections

*Turn your eyes now to look at Jesus, what about Him that makes your heart glow? Speak your love to Him!*

*When you think about it, Christ was born under the most unhygienic conditions...in a manger...likely where the stench was strong from the animals and their defecation...a reflection of our own sinful conditions. But He came even while we were still His enemies cos He knows our need for salvation. Will you now bow before Him in humble adoration expressing your need for Him?*

### Verse 2

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

### Prayerful Reflections

*Search your heart sincerely, who is God asking you to love?*

*Is there someone you need to make peace with so that you can enter the new year with freedom? Pray for him or her. Ask God to bless this person and give you courage make peace and share His love. Only Christ has the power to set you free and through your brokenness, His glory can shine!*

**Wishing You & Your Loved Ones A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

# Our Christmas Gifts for Others

## Healing, Help & Hope

Let us come before God for ...

- a. Those who have lost loved ones or are losing loved ones due to this pandemic, natural disasters or critical illness to find God's grace & peace to comfort them in their grief.
- b. Those who are on the frontlines to find times for rest, refreshment and renewed strength to press on.
- c. Those who are persecuted for their faith and are unable to worship freely. Ask God to protect them and give them peace in every good way.
- d. Those who have been affected by job losses or are financially burdened as a result to receive essential help in times of need.

## Salvation:

2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord does not delay *and* is not tardy *or* slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance."

- God desires everyone to repent...even us. Even as we come clean before God, let us also ask God to bring to mind **specific family and friends**.
- Pray for them by name to cry out to God for their need for Him and His love to fill their hearts.

## Carmel Christmas online

In this most unusual Christmas and difficult year, why not share our Carmel Christmas online link with others who are lonely, lost, or discouraged etc. and with those who simply need to be encouraged this Christmas.

Before you do so,

1. Pray a prayer for each recipient.
2. Ask God to use the online Christmas to speak powerfully into their hearts.
3. Ask God's Spirit to move them to hunger and thirst for Him...either as new believers or those who have wandered off from faith.

 **Enjoy EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US**

 **Full online programme: [carmel.sg/emmanuel](https://carmel.sg/emmanuel)**

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

–“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” by Charles Wesley

**Wishing You & Your Loved Ones A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**