



*Jingle bells, Batman smells. Robin laid an egg  
Batmobile lost a wheel and Joker got away, hey!*

Over 5 decades ago, that song began surfacing on playgrounds in California\*. Kids still sing it today. It's going to be stuck in your head now, isn't it? (You're welcome!)

For over a month, everywhere you went, you probably heard "Sounds of the Season". In every store, restaurant, or gas station you visited; 24 hours a day, on every radio station (except 96.1 WSOX) pretty much anywhere there was a broadcast system there was Christmas music ad nauseum. Don't get me wrong, Christmas music is wonderful. But how many times can you hear "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire..."? Here's my question, why are these places not blasting Christmas Carols? Songs that express the reason for the season as it were.

My favorite carol is "Oh Holy Night". Originally based on a French-language poem by poet Placide Cappeau, written in 1843, it was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey and was adapted into English in 1855\*\*. In my youth our family, including my grandparents, attended Christmas Eve services at the Lutheran Church where we were members. I can still hear my grandfather's deep voice singing "Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel voices". Most people are familiar with the first and last verses, but the second, and to me the most powerful, is often overlooked.

*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 no stranger! Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!*

It encourages and strengthens me to know "*In all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!*" These are some powerful words. Words to keep in our hearts, not just at Christmas as part of a carol, but all year long to remind us of the sacrifice that God made by sending us His Son. No matter what we go through in this life, he is with us. We have the hope of eternal life in glory! Wow!

As you go through the next few days of celebrations, gift exchanges, food, food and more food, remember to reflect on the birth of our Savior. Born in a lowly fashion, died as a common criminal and rose from the grave to be the Light of the World. The friend who knows our needs.

*Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!*

May you be blessed now and in the New year with the fullness of Christ.

Cindy Lee Nonnemacher  
Author

\*The Smith-Weir hypothesis is essentially that "Batman Smells" first appeared on the playgrounds of California in **December 1966**. [Click here for more information than you'll ever need about the song.](#)

\*\*[Click here for the Wikipedia page about "O Holy Night"](#).