

Silent Night

Josef Mohr, circa 1816-1818

Most of the stories concerning this hymn and its composers Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber are merely legend and are mostly false. To discover true stories behind this hymn and its writers, go to:

<http://silentnight.web.za/index.htm> or <http://www.stillenacht.at/en/index.asp>

For a copy of the earliest sheet music that bears the composer's signature; go to: <http://stillenacht.tripod.com/>

A fairly literal translation, metered to be sung with the sheet music offered above:

1. Still the night! Holy the night!
All's asleep, one sole light,
Just the faithful and holy pair,
Lovely boy-child with curly hair,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Still the night! Holy the night!
God's Son laughs, O how bright.
Love from your holy lips shines clear,
As the dawn of salvation draws near,
Jesus, Lord, with your birth!
Jesus, Lord, with your birth!

3. Still the night! Holy the night!
Brought the world peace tonight,
From the heavens' golden height
Shows the grace of His holy might
Jesus, as man on this earth!
Jesus, as man on this earth!

4. Still the night! Holy the night!
Where today all the might
Of His fatherly love us graced
And then Jesus, as brother embraced.
All the peoples on earth!
All the peoples on earth!

5. Still the night! Holy the night!
Long we hoped that He might,
As our Lord, free us of wrath,
Since times of our fathers He hath
Promised to spare all mankind!
Promised to spare all mankind!

6. Still the night! Holy the night!
Shepherds first see the sight.
Told by angelic Alleluja,
Sounding everywhere, both near and far:
"Christ the Savior is here!"
"Christ the Savior is here!"

Traditional English Version: verses 1 & 3 translated by John F. Young, 1863; translator of verses 2 & 4 anonymous.

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;

With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

**English translation distributed by
the tourist office in Oberndorf, Austria:**

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm all is bright,
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth;
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

3. Silent night, holy night,
Here at last, healing light,
From the heavenly kingdom sent,
Abundant grace for our intent.
Jesus, salvation for all.
Jesus, salvation for all.

4. Silent night, holy night,
Sleeps the world in peace tonight.
God sends his Son to earth below,
A Child from whom all blessings flow.
Jesus embraces mankind.
Jesus embraces mankind.

5. Silent night, holy night,
Mindful of mankind's plight,
The Lord in Heav'n on high decreed,
From earthly woes we would be freed.
Jesus, God's promise for peace.
Jesus, God's promise for peace.

6. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.

my additional verses:

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Wise Men follow the star's light.
Gifts they bring to God's mortal Son -
To His manger the star leads them on;
Word of God is made bright!
Word of God is made bright!

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Joseph prays For God's might;
Strength to fulfill all that God asks;
Strength to carry out divine tasks;
Strength to nurture God's Son;
Strength to nurture God's Son.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Gift of God that mid-night.
To the world the Word is made Flesh;
Through the child our souls are refreshed.
Mankind is reborn tonight!
Mankind is reborn tonight!

