

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

- I. Many of our favorite hymns were originally in other languages before being translated later into English. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is one of those hymns. It was written in Latin and later translated into English by Frederick Oakeley. Latin is an important language today even though it is not spoken. Let us look at the first stanza of this famous Christmas hymn in Latin and see how it was sung originally:

Latin: Adeste, fideles, Laeti triumphantes; Venite, venite in Bethlehem: Natum videte Regem angelorum: Venite adoremus (Repeat twice) Dominum.	Sounds Like: > > Ah-dehs-teh, fee-deh-lehs > > Leh-tee tree-oom-fahn-tehs > > veh-nee-teh een Beht-leh-hehm; > > Nah-toom vee-deh-teh > > Reh-gehm ahn-geh-law-room: > > Veh-nee-teh ah-daw-reh-mus > Daw-mee-noom.
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With just a little practice you can say the first stanza of this great hymn in Latin. Latin is a beautiful language to sing because all of the vowels are "pure" (consistent).

i = ee (heat)	u = oo (hoot)
a = ah (hot)	
e = eh (head)	o = aw (haul)

Singing these five pure vowels in Latin will make your singing more beautiful and blended as a choir when you sing in English. On the right side of the chart above are accent marks that show what syllable is emphasized when speaking Latin. On the left are marks that show the musical accent (the first count of every measure). See if they match. Mark the accents in your copy of the hymn. This is a natural processional hymn. Use the left foot for every accent mark and the right foot in between the marks. Take two handbells, G and D. Play G on the strong beat (left foot) and D on the weak beat (right foot). Then sing the Latin stanza with only the handbell accompaniment as you process. Those who do not play handbells may wish to carry candles as suggested in stanza 2 (Light of Light).

II. Scripture and the Hymn

Look up the scripture given for each stanza and write down what each has in common in the space provided:

Stanza 1 (Luke 2:15) _____

Stanza 2 (John 1:1-9) _____

Stanza 3 (Luke 2:13-14) _____

Stanza 4 (Luke 2:6-7) _____