CHRISTMAS CAROL · WORDS JOSEPH MOHR 1816 · MUSIC FRANZ XAVER GRUBER 1818

Silent Night

As it is sung today

English words by John Freeman Young, 1859

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 Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour 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.

All six original verses

German text as written down by Franz Xaver Gruber around 1860, with a word-for-word translation, not for singing

1 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute heilige Paar.
Holder Knab' im lockigten Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night! Holy night!
All are asleep; alone and awake
only the dear and holy pair.
Lovely boy with curling hair,
sleep in heavenly peace!

2 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn! O wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Jesus in deiner Geburt!
Jesus in deiner Geburt!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, oh how love
laughs from your divine mouth,
as the hour of our saving strikes:
Jesus, at your birth!

3 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Die der Welt Heil gebracht,
Aus des Himmels goldenen Höhn
Uns der Gnaden Fülle läßt seh'n
Jesum in Menschengestalt,
Jesum in Menschengestalt

Silent night! Holy night!
that brought salvation to the world,
from heaven's golden heights
lets us see the fullness of grace:
Jesus in human form!

4 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Wo sich heut alle Macht
Väterlicher Liebe ergoß
Und als Bruder huldvoll umschloß
Jesus die Völker der Welt,
Jesus die Völker der Welt.

Silent night! Holy night!
when all the power of a father's love
was poured out today,
and Jesus, as a brother,
graciously embraced the peoples of the
world!

5 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Lange schon uns bedacht,
Als der Herr vom Grimme befreit,
In der Väter urgrauer Zeit
Aller Welt Schonung verhieß,
Aller Welt Schonung verhieß.

Silent night! Holy night!
long since meant for us,
when the Lord, set free from wrath,
in the ancient days of our forebears
promised mercy to all the world!

6 Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Alleluja,
Tönt es laut bei Ferne und Nah:
Jesus der Retter ist da!
Jesus der Retter ist da!

Silent night! Holy night!
first made known to shepherds
by the angels' Alleluia,
it rings out loud, far and near:
Jesus the Saviour is here!

Young's carol follows verses 1, 6 and 2 of the original.

Source: Compiled and translated by Bernd Blasius, author of The First to Stand Up (Edition Resonanz, 2026). All verses and the story of the carol: humane-world-formula.com/christmas-truce-1914/silent-night

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