

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*You therefore must endure hardship as  
a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV)*

It's hard to imagine the difficulties faced by John and Charles Wesley and their fellow evangelists as they traveled by horseback from town to town, facing mobs, enduring harsh conditions and severe weather. Here is a sampling from Charles' journal as he pressed into Wales in March of 1748.

Wed., March 23<sup>rd</sup>. *I was...not to set out til past seven. The continual rain and sharp wind were full in my teeth. I rode all day in great misery, and had a restless, painful night at Tan-y-bwlch.*

Thur., March 24<sup>th</sup>. *I resolved to push for Garth, finding my strength would never hold out for three more days riding. At five (a.m.), I set out in hard rain, which continued all day. We went through perils of water. I was quite gone when we came at night to a little village,. There was no fire in the poor hut,. A brother supplied us with some, nailed up our window, and helped us to bed. I had no more rest than the night before.*

Fri., March 25<sup>th</sup>. *I took horse again at five, the rain attending us still.... The weather grew more severe. The violent wind drove the hard rain full in our faces. I rode till I could ride no more; walked the last hour; and by five dropped down at Garth.*

Charles' primary purpose in going to Garth was to preach, but he had another motive as well. It was also to see Miss Sally Gwynee, whom he wanted to marry. Marriage required a regular income, however, and Sally's parents were concerned about Charles' ability to sustain a family with no regular source of finances. Charles agreed to publish two volumes of his *Hymns and Sacred Poems*.

The income from royalties more than satisfied Sally's parents, and the two were married on Saturday, April 8, 1749.

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" wasn't introduced in this two-volume set *Hymns and Sacred Songs* containing a total of 455 hymns. It had been published earlier, in a 1745 edition of Christmas hymns entitled, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*. This little hymnal contained eighteen Christmas carols Charles had written, of which "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" is the best known.