



Today in History

December 25, 1818

▲ The popular carol **Silent Night** was sung for the first time at a church in Oberndorf, Austria. It has since been translated into around 140 languages

1492: The Santa Maria, flagship of Christopher Columbus, was lost after running aground off Haiti

1741: Anders Celsius devised the centigrade temperature scale

1758: The comet portrayed as the Star of Bethlehem in medieval art returned as predicted by astronomer Edmund Halley, after whom it was later named

1989: Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed after a secret trial