

Carols for the King: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

(Various Texts)

The History of the Song

- Words written by Charles Wesley
 - The most prolific male hymn writer in history
- His goal was to teach the poor and illiterate sound doctrine
 - His brother, John, called his hymnal the best theological book in existence
- The song was first published as a poem in 1739
 - Inspired the sound of church bells in London on Christmas Day
 - It was put to music by George Whitefield in 1753
 - The modern musical arrangement was reworked to be sung to Felix Mendelssohn's secular song *Festgesang*

Jesus, the Reconciler

- The first stanza describes the Good News of the Savior's birth (Luke 2:11)
- God has sent the One who will reconcile the sinner back to Himself (2 Cor. 5:19)
- Therefore, all people should proclaim the Good News of King Jesus

Jesus, God Incarnate

- The second stanza focuses on Jesus as God who came in flesh (John 1:14)
 - Claiming the title Emmanuel (Matt. 1:23, see Isa. 7:14)
- And pointing to the timeliness of His arrival (Gal. 4:4)

Jesus, the Prince of Peace

- The third stanza focuses on Jesus' role as Prince of Peace, the fulfillment of God's promise through the Prophets (Isa. 9:6; Mal. 4:2)
- And His offer of rebirth and eternal life (John 3:3, 16)

So What?

- Do we know Jesus as Reconciler, God incarnate, Prince of Peace?
- Are we proclaiming Him like the angels?

Meditation Verse: *Luke 2:14*

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,

Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild, he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.