

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Luke 2:1-14

Sermon given on December 25, 2022

Calvary Chapel French Valley

Christmas Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

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## Luke 2:1-14

﻿**Opening Comments**

* Welcome to the Christmas Morning Service
* This morning, we will continue our series - **The Songs of Christmas**
* Jesus is the reason for the season
* We celebrate Christmas to remember the birth of Jesus Christ – our Savior
* Today, we will look at another classic Christmas Carol – **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**
* First, let’s pray and then we will look at that song

### Teaching

* **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**
* The lyrics of Hark the Herald Angels sing first appeared in a collection of hymns and sacred poems in 1739
* As it is known in the modern era, it features lyrical contributions from Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, two of the founding ministers of Methodism
* I didn’t realize this as I was choosing the three songs for this series, but people have been singing these Christmas carols for hundreds of years
* It is hard to imagine that any of the songs being written today will have that kind of popularity
* Turn to **Luke 2**
* Let’s look at the first couple of lines
* There is a lot in this one, so I am not going to be able to unpack everything

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

* I am probably preaching to the choir when I say that Christmas is about the birth of Christ
* ‘Newborn King’ – There in the manger, an animal’s food trough lies the King of the World
* Born to poor, humble parents - none-the-less king
* That is what the wise men from the East said about Jesus **Matthew 2:1-2**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

* One of the ways we can worship Jesus on the day of His birth is to remind ourselves that He is our King
* The next lines

“Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”

* Through faith in Christ, we have peace with God through the forgiveness of sins and access to the peace of God
* Jesus was born so that He could be the sacrifice for our sins
* And when we put our faith in Him, we are reconciled to God
* That means that everything that stood between us and God has been taken away – that is worth celebrating today as well
* The next lines

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th’angelic host proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

* There was very little attention drawn to the birth of the Savior of the world
* The wise men would show up eventually and get people thinking about it, but on the night of His birth – it was a Silent Night
* That is until God broke the silence
* **Luke 2:8-14**
* The world has some strange ideas about Jesus and Christmas
* But as we celebrate, we can also use this time to help someone better understand why this day is important
* The next lines are repeated at the end of all three stanzas of the song

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

* This is a proclamation calling people to glorify Jesus
* We glorify the newborn King when we keep Jesus as the main thing at Christmas
* Let’s enjoy all the traditions of Christmas, just do your best to use them to point to Jesus
* The next lines

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!

* All of heaven adores Christ and so should everyone He created
* ‘everlasting Lord’ = Christ’s eternal nature and eternal sovereignty

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 man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

* The virgin birth of Christ is one of our foundational doctrines
* Another way we refer to the birth of Christ is the Incarnation
* In **John 1:1-2** we are told that Jesus was with the Father at the beginning of everything

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God.

* And then a little later John tells us about the incarnation **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

* As Jesus lay there in that Manger in Bethlehem, He was fully God and fully human baby
* ‘pleased as man with man to dwell’ – He chose to live with His creation as one of us
* He did not so that He could go on to offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sins
* ‘Jesus, our Emmanuel’ = ‘God with us’
* The better I get to know Jesus and myself and the rest of humanity, the more remarkable it is that He chose to be like us
* The next line

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

* The Prophet Isaiah used this as one of the tiles of the future Messiah **Isaiah 9:6**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

* Jesus is the source of peace in this world **John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

* Not only do we have peace with God through Christ, but we can also have peace with other people
* We are glorifying Jesus when we actively strive for peace
* The next line

Hail the Son of Righteousness!

* Jesus is the physical manifestation of God’s righteousness
* To be righteous is to be right with God, spiritually, practically, and mentally
* We would be in big trouble if we had to get there on our own
* But faith in Christ covers us with His perfect righteousness
* And because we are covered with Christ’s righteousness, we can approach God whenever we need to **Hebrews 4:16**

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

* Jesus came down to the earth so that we could go to God
* The next lines

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.

* ‘Light’ speaks of truth – Jesus is the Truth
* ‘life’ – Jesus is the source of all life, both now and forever
* And not just any life **John 10:10**

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

* It is probably hard imagining that the babe of Bethlehem is creator of heaven and earth and everything on it
* In addition to life, Jesus brings healing
* While this could certainly mean physical healing, it more likely points to the spiritual healing of forgiveness of sins
* Next line

Mild He lays His glory by…

* This speaks of Christ’s humility
* As God, Jesus deserved all the glory that He shared with the Father in Heaven in eternity past
* But to save us He did something amazing **Philippians 2:5-8**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

* Jesus never stopped being God, but He set aside the rights and privileges of His deity to take on human form
* The last lines of this beautiful Christmas carol

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!”

* ‘Born that man no more may die’ does not mean that we will not experience physical death
* Unless the Rapture comes, we will all face the reality of death
* Because of Christ, spiritual death, eternal separation from God is no long necessary through faith in Jesus
* ‘born to raise the sons of earth’ = the promise of the resurrection
* Because Jesus died a physical death and then was raised to eternal life, so will we also
* ‘born to give them second birth’ = through faith in Jesus Christ we are born again with a new nature that seeks God and wants to please Him
* Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
* **Invite worship team to come up**
* Two thousand years ago, the angels made sure that someone knew that the Savior King of the world had been born
* That job has been given to us
* As we celebrate Christmas, let it be a glorious proclamation of our glorious King
* God bless you – have a merry, Christ-filled Christmas
* **Pray!**