



ADVENT 2025

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

PROCLAIMING THE PRINCE OF PEACE

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PART 1: With the Angelic Host PROCLAIM

LUKE 2:1-20

Pastor Courtney Hall

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

In 1739, a poem by Charles Wesley birthed one of the most beloved and familiar of all Christmas carols. The lyrics have been amended over time, most notably by fellow Methodist George Whitefield in 1754. It recounts the angels appearing to shepherds of Bethlehem to announce the birth of the Christ as described in Luke 2:8-14.



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Wesley originally intended his poem to be sung to the tune of another Wesleyan hymn, the Easter ode *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*. But a century after Wesley's writing, a melody by German composer Felix Mendelssohn (commemorating Gutenberg's invention of movable type) provided the familiar tune for this hymn as we know & sing it today.



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Though only the first stanza is widely known and sung today, this hymn actually consists of **five stanzas**, all **replete with Biblical references** and **rich in theological significance**. This year, as we advance **through the five services of Advent**, we'll study together **the five stanzas of this song**, and the wonderful witness they **PROCLAIM** of Christ's coming to us that is the event of **Christmas**.



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth & 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:

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

[2]

[3]

[4]



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING | Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.... ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house & line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him & was expecting a child. ⁶ **While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,** ⁷ **and she gave birth to her first-born, a Son.** She wrapped Him in cloths & placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING | Luke 2:1-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ **An angel of the Lord appeared to them**, & the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people.** ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; **He is the Messiah, the Lord.** ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths & lying in a manger."

¹³ **Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God & saying,** ¹⁴ **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, & on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."**

1. Heed the Herald

Hark! The herald angels sing:

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HEED THE HERALD [1]



1. Heed the Herald

Luke 2:14b

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, & the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths & lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God & saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, & **on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.**"

1. Heed the Herald

Luke 2:14b

Luke 1:78

"...because of the tender mercy of our God...**the rising Sun will come to us** from Heaven."

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; **My peace I give you**. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled & do not be afraid."

1 Peter 1:3

"Praise be to the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us **new birth into a living hope** through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."

2. Hear the Hope

Hark! The herald angels sing:

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

HEAR THE HOPE [2]

[3]

[4]



2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ & gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that **God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.** ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ **God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Colossians 1:19-22

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, ²⁰ and **through Him to reconcile to Himself all things**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace through His Blood, shed on the Cross.**

²¹ Once you were alienated from God & were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But **now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical Body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish & free from accusation....**

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Hark! The herald angels sing:

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

HEAR THE HOPE [2]



2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, you nations, with His people...

Psalm 22:27-28

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember & turn to the LORD, & **all the families of the nations will bow down before Him**, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD & **He rules over the nations**.

Psalm 72:11

May **all kings bow down to Him & all nations serve Him**.

Psalm 86:9

All the nations You have made will come & worship before You, Lord; they **will bring glory to Your Name**.

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Isaiah 60:1-3

¹ "Arise, shine, for your light has come, & the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth & thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you & His glory appears over you. ³ **Nations will come to your light, & kings to the brightness of your dawn.**"

Daniel 7:14

He was given authority, glory, & sovereign power; **all nations & peoples of every language worshiped Him.** His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, & His Kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Haggai 2:7

"I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this House with glory," says the LORD Almighty.

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹ "After this I looked, & there before me was **a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, & language, standing before the Throne & before the Lamb.** They were wearing white robes & were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the Throne, & to the Lamb.'"

Revelation 15:4

"Who will not fear You, Lord, & bring glory to Your Name? For You alone are holy. **All nations will come & worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.**"

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Revelation 21:24

The nations will walk by [the] light [of the City of God], & **the kings of the earth** will bring their splendor into it.

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

HEAR THE HOPE [2]



2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Daniel 7:13

"In my vision at night I looked, & **there before me was One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of Heaven**. He approached the Ancient of Days & was led into His Presence."

Mark 14:62 (cf. also Matthew 26:64)

"I am [the Messiah]," said Jesus. "And **you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One & coming on the clouds of heaven**."

Revelation 1:7

"Look, He is coming with the clouds" [DA 7:13] & "every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him" [ZE 12:10].... So shall it be!

2. Hear the Hope

Luke 2:10-14

Revelation 20:11

"Then **I saw a great white throne & Him who was seated on it.** The earth & the heavens fled from His Presence...."

Revelation 21:1-2

¹ "Then I saw '*a new heaven & a new earth*' [*Is 65:17*], for the first heaven & the first earth had passed away, & there was no longer any sea. ² **I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride beautifully dressed for her Husband.**"

3. PROCLAIM the News

Luke 2:13-20

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

HEAR THE HOPE [2]

PROCLAIM THE NEWS [3]



3. PROCLAIM the News | Luke 2:8-13

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, & the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths & lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God & saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, & on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

3. PROCLAIM the News | Luke 2:16-20

¹⁶ So [after the angels left, the shepherds] hurried off & found Mary & Joseph, & the Baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen Him, **they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child,** ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But **Mary treasured up all these things & pondered them in her heart.**

²⁰ **The shepherds returned, glorifying & praising God for all the things they had heard & seen,** which were just as they had been told.

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Luke 2:13-20

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

HEAR THE HOPE [2]

PROCLAIM THE NEWS [3]



3. PROCLAIM the News | Luke 2:8-13

⁴ When [King Herod] had called together all the people's chief priests & teachers of the law, **he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.** ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet [Micah] has written: ⁶ "'But you, **Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for **out of you will come a Ruler** who will Shepherd My people Israel' [Mi 5:2]."**

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HEED THE HERALD [1]

HEAR THE HOPE [2]

PROCLAIM THE NEWS [3]

HAIL THE KING [4]



4. Hail the King

Luke 2:11

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, & the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ **Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.** ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths & lying in a manger."

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4. Hail the King

Matthew 2:1-2

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, **Magi from the east came to Jerusalem** ² & asked, "**Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose & [we] have come to worship Him.**"



ADVENT 2025

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

PROCLAIMING THE PRINCE OF PEACE

ADVENT WEEK ONE

WORSHIP THE LORD and

PROCLAIM HIS COMING!