



## What Does That Even Mean?

A modern translation of old Christmas song lyrics

I love Christmas. I've always loved Christmas. I was that kid that would wake up at 4:00 in the morning and sat there for three hours because my parents were wise enough to make the rule that we couldn't wake them until 7:00. Most kids grow out of that stage, but in my 33 Christmases on Earth I don't think I've ever slept past 6:00 on Christmas morning. I love everything about this holiday; the decorations, the food, the presents, the family get togethers, the music, but most of all I love the meaning behind it all. With Thanksgiving over it is officially Christmas season. That means we have four weeks or less to get everything done. The danger, as always, is that it is far too easy to get caught up in all the secular aspects of the holiday and forget about the things that make it a holy day in the first place. I get it, it's an exciting time of year with great traditions. Yet, even when we are singing about a round virgin and a baby that doesn't cry it's far too easy to forget about the reason for the season.

This month I want to take a closer look at my favorite song about the reason for the season, Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Like many others you've probably sung hundreds of times, it was written so long ago it uses words that have worked their way out of every day usage and seem foreign to us. I don't have space to go through all of them here, but I would encourage you to spend some time this season looking closely at the words of these songs. You might be surprised at how deep some of them are. Maybe this year, rather than just being another part of the show that is our modern Christmas experience, they might do what they were originally intended to do; bring you face to face with God as he sleeps on the hay.

### 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 the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the God head see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Son of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lay His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth

Come Desire of nations come  
Fix in us thy humble home  
Rise, the woman's conquering seed  
Bruise in us the serpent's head  
Adam's likeness now efface  
Stamp thine image in its place  
Second Adam from above  
Reinstate us in Thy love

### MODERN READING

Listen, the announcing angels are singing!  
Congratulations to the newborn King  
They're singing about peace on earth and gentle mercy  
about how God and sinners can now get back together  
All you nations out there should stand up in joy!  
You should join in the victory song  
and, with the angels in the sky, announce  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Listen, the announcing angels are singing!  
Congratulations to the newborn King

The Messiah, the one who is adored in heaven  
The Messiah, the one who is Lord forever  
It's been a long time, but look, He has come  
The child of a virgin!  
You can see all of God covered in flesh  
Greet God in the flesh  
As a man he was pleased to dwell with men  
He is Jesus, God with us.

Greet the Prince of Peace who was born from heaven  
Greet the Son of everything that is right  
He brings light and life to everyone  
He rises with healing in his wake  
He willingly set aside all his glory  
and was born so that men will no longer have to die  
He was born to lift us up  
He was born to give us new life (Jn. 3:3-16)

Come, you who the nations have been waiting for  
come and live within us  
Stand up, conquering seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15)  
Crush the serpent's head (sin) within us  
Scratch away the sinful nature in us  
and make us look more like you  
As the father of us all (1 Cor 15:47) who came from heaven  
give us our place back because of you love

I couldn't even begin to cover the depth of this hymn, so I hope you take a closer look at this and other Christmas songs this year. I hope this Christmas that, veiled in flesh, the Godhead you might see.

Merry Christmas  
Love, Pastor Ben

# DECEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  WORSHIP MEETING 6:30PM	2	3
4  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	5	6  SERVICE & ACTION MTG 1:00PM	7  LADIES BS 9:30AM PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	8  ELDERS 6:00PM DEACONS 6:30PM BOARD 7:00PM	9	10
11  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	12	13	14  LADIES BS 9:30AM PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	15	16	17
18  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	19	20	21  PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	22	23  OFFICE CLOSED	24  CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM
25  MERRY CHRISTMAS  WS 10:30AM	26  OFFICE CLOSED	27	28  PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM ADULT BS 6:30PM	29	30	31



## Serving In December

December 04

**Meditation:** Doug Dalton  
**Servers:** Brenda Gibson, \*Iris Felix  
 John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Nursery:** Sarah Skiles, ?  
**Lord's Supper Prep:** Jerry & Brenda Gibson  
**AV Booth:** ?/Sound, Tyler Tidwell/PP  
**Children's Church:** Roma Weinkauf

December 11

**Meditation:** Randall Coffman  
**Servers:** Brenda Risner, \*John Signorelli  
 Doug Tritle, ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Nursery:** Elisabeth White, Wanda Jones  
**Lord's Supper Prep:** Jerry & Brenda Gibson  
**AV Booth:** ?/Sound, Tyler Tidwell/PP  
**Children's Church:** Sarah Skiles

December 18

**Meditation:** Lloyd Colston  
**Servers:** Brenda Gibson, \*Iris Felix  
 John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Nursery:** Jeremy Buxton, Jessica Buxton  
**Lord's Supper Prep:** Jerry & Brenda Gibson  
**AV Booth:** ?/Sound, Tyler Tidwell/PP  
**Children's Church:** Nicole Stanfill

December 25

**Meditation:** Rick Weinkauf  
**Servers:** Brenda Risner, John Signorelli  
 \*Wanda Jones, ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Nursery:** Kristen Partin, Rebecca Cullen  
**Lord's Supper Prep:** Jerry & Brenda Gibson  
**AV Booth:** ?/Sound, Tyler Tidwell/PP  
**Children's Church:** Christina Barnes



## In Our Prayers

**Riek Calje - mental confusion**  
 (Elisabeth White's grandmother)  
**Debbie Cleland - cancer**  
 (Christina Barnes' co-worker)  
**Dale Martin - bladder cancer**  
 (Lloyd & Judy Colston's friend)  
**Mark Embree - bicycle accident**  
 (Brenda Risner's friend)  
**Mike Chase - colon cancer**  
 (Jimmy Geigle's friend)  
**Don Smith - cancer**  
 (Construction supervisor on our building)  
**Bob Coulter - Parkinson's disease**  
 (church member, moved to TX)  
**Laurie Cullen - salvation/early onset Alzheimer's**  
 (Shawn Cullen's sister)  
**Kay Bolding - bone marrow transplant**  
 (Tara Coffman's co-worker)

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on.

*If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/15 Jane Clark  
 12/17 Lynette Crawford  
 12/18 Jim & Wanda Jones  
 12/21 Mark & Jackie Morey  
 12/23 Tara Coffman  
 12/23 Josh Price  
 12/23 Brenda Risner  
 12/23 Rick Weinkauf  
 12/25 Jerry Gibson  
 12/29 Randall & Tara Coffman

## Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Worship Service 10:30 am

## Wednesday Night

Prayer Hour 5:30 pm  
 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

## Secretary's Report

November 2016

Average Attendance	55
Average Visitors	8
Total Average Attendance	64
Total Offerings	\$9,065.00

### Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton  
 Gene Drechsler, Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

### Your Deacons

Crystal Crawford, Rebecca Cullen, Brenda Gibson  
 Wanda Jones, Joe Price, Rick Weinkauf, Dan White





*Be A Blessing  
Adopt An Angel*

**TAKE AN ANGEL OFF  
THE TREE. PUT  
PURCHASED GIFTS IN  
BAG ALONG WITH THE  
ANGEL YOU TOOK.  
DO NOT WRAP.  
RETURN TO THE  
CHURCH AND PUT  
UNDER THE TREE BY  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER  
13<sup>TH</sup>.**



# *Christmas Eve* **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

*JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL SERVICE*

*6PM*

