

***Sermon Title:* "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"**

Date: December 10, 2023 - Luke 2:8-20

Central Idea: Those who accept the Christ child have Christmas forever in their hearts. Do you have Christmas in your heart?

Introduction: One of the things that makes Christmas such a memorable time of year is the music. The same songs, year after year, get stuck in our heads, and we can often recite the words without even thinking about it.

Many of the carols we sing have a rich theological tradition, and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is no exception. The words were written by Charles Wesley, who wrote more hymns than any other male writer. We should focus on the words of the great carols and think about their meaning. Many proclaim a perfectly crafted theology including the Gospel message.

I. The Angels Sang, vv. 8-14.

1. They sang the first Christmas carol.
2. They sang the good news, v. 10.
3. They sang glory to God, v. 14.
4. They sang of peace, v. 14.

II. The Shepherds Proclaim, vv. 15-20.

1. They taught others what they heard and saw, v. 17.
2. They returned home to tell still others, v. 20.

III. The Event Acclaimed

The shepherds were

1. The first to hear of the Gospel.
2. The first believers of the Gospel.
3. The first preachers of the Gospel, v. 17.

Conclusion: The message of the angels was expressed in three phases:

- (1) A Great Praise, "Glory to God in the highest!"
- (2) A Great Peace, "...on the earth peace."
- (3) A Great Purpose—God, in Christ, was about to make the Savior known.