

Heavenly Choir Singing

1. Angels Announce Christ's Coming to Shepherds.

2. What Has the Angels Singing?

3. How Does Christ's Coming Achieve These Things?

Conclusion: The shepherds heard an angelic choir announcing that which all of God's people had been waiting to hear. The three things they heard announced: God's glory, world peace, and God's favor resting on His people were made a reality in and through Christ. He is the glory of God revealed. He makes peace through His sacrifice. He brings the favor of God to rest on His people forever.

Micah 5: 2, 5

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days ...
And he shall be their peace.

Psalm 89:19 – 29

Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
“I have granted help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.
I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,
so that my hand shall be established with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.
I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.
I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.
He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’
And I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.
My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.
I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

This week we will be using the material from our *Advent Devotional*. Allow the repetition each day to slow you down from all the frenetic details of daily life. Rest. Breathe in the reality of Christ's Advent. Ask the Lord to quiet your mind and heart. Ask Him to conform your will with His. Meditate upon the joyous good news that Christ has come and hope in the truth that He is coming again!

Each Day

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?

Family: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Leader: What is the meaning of the third lighted candle?

Family: The third candle is the Shepherds' candle signifying the Light of Joy that unexpectantly brightened the hearts of a humble band of shepherds at the announcement of Christ's birth.

Leader: Who were the shepherds?

Family: The Shepherds were a group of lowly men whose work was to watch over flocks of sheep. It was difficult work, often in solitude, and subject to the dangers of life in the wilds. They were often despised and rejected by others who did not value the type of work they did.

Leader: What do the Gospels say concerning the shepherds?

Family: Luke says, "In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

Read aloud Luke 2:13-20

¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” ¹⁵ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Sing, “Go Tell It on the Mountain!”

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2. The Shepherds feared and
trembled,
When, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain

Pray

“Lord Jesus Christ, we give You all thanks and praise for Your victory over sin and death at the cross and the empty tomb. We bless You for redeeming us from the empty way of life we inherited from Adam and bringing us into a new life in Your family. We thank You for Your precious blood that was shed for us that we might be delivered from the dominion of darkness into Your glorious kingdom of light. We look forward with hope to Your return when we, with Your holy angels, will never cease to sing the wonders of Your glorious redemption. Amen.”