

This Sunday at CMPC...

This Sunday we continue our mini-series *Christmas Notes from Christmas Carols* as Pastor John looks at Luke 2.14 and Merry. Then Sunday evening we will be joining together for our annual **CarolFest**... don't miss this time-honored tradition of singing your favorite carols at 6:30pm. (And remember the *Kids of the Kingdom* program is December 11 at 6:30pm in the *Covenant Life Center*).

Our carols Sunday morning have stood the test of time! *The First Noel* is an English carol whose roots date back to the 15th century and is found written in the 18th century. It may be possible that the original was "O well, O well..." Our hymn of praise is *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. This is a carol dating from the 18th century; we sing a 19th century version; it was originally written in Latin by an Englishman teaching in France. Our hymn of testimony is *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* written by Nahum Tate about 1700. It closely follows the Christmas story from Luke 2, and was originally written in a metrical form closely resembling the psalter. The tune we use in the United States was adapted by Lowell Mason from one of Handel's arias. Our carol of response will be *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*, a carol dating back to the 15th century. The *Kids of the Kingdom* will also sing this carol at the beginning of the worship service.

A Christmas Carol trivia question: John Mason Neale, a pastor who wrote books and hymns prolifically, and the translator of carols such as *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* and *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, and who also wrote the carol *Good King Wenceslaus*, also wrote a history that impacts us every Sunday. What history was he writing about?

CMPC Sermon Notes ♦ **Series:** *Christmas Notes from Christmas Carols* ♦ **Message:** "Merry" ♦ **Text:** Luke 2.1-14 9.1-2

Music and the glory of God

- Born to sing (Kathy Mattea)
- Hymns
 - Praising God
 - Remembering theology
- Christmas Carols
 - First Christmas song: 129AD
 - Christmas carols origin 12th century... were not allowed to sing in church
 - When Puritans ruled England as well: were not allowed to sing carols
- Songs of the country side
 - Songs of the heart

Background

- "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" was written as a reaction to 15th century church music.
 - The first printed version didn't appear until about 1760.
- God rest you merry!
 - Rest means keep
 - Merry – from the word for short, has the idea of pleasant, enjoyable
 - Not as some have suggested, strong.

Remember his birth

- Our scripture text
 - Nothing dismay/Fear not
 - Most marked and shared verse of 2022 is Isaiah 41.10
- Stunning... shepherds
 - Nobody saw this coming
 - After all, we're special!
- Told a bunch of shepherds it was good news for all people.
- Don't forget the cosmic battle we have seen in Revelation.
 - Don't forget the dragon ready to swallow Jesus
- Have yourself a merry little Christmas... no way
 - Cataclysmic Christmas!

Remember why he came

- Stanza 1: To save us all from Satan's power
- Stanza 3: to free us from Satan's power
- World held captive by sin
- Nothing else saves us
 - No other religion
 - No government
 - No world view
 - No tolerance or inclusion
- Savior
 - Our study of Revelation
- Every Communion Sunday our call to worship has been 1.5b-6

Remember the Response

- The angels joy is evident: glory to God... peace on earth
- Good news is for everybody
 - Shepherds shared
- Shepherds glorified

What this song celebrates

- Tidings of Comfort
 - Isaiah 40
- Tidings of Joy
 - Isaiah 12

So What About Us?

- The song remembers when
 - When the mind goes...
 - Christmas Eve service...
 - Comfort and joy: our sins are forgiven and we are freed from Satan's power
- Passing the carols down
 - Proclamation to the world
 - Praise to God
 - Personal grip on truth

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 4, 2022

GATHERING TO WORSHIP**Prelude** *What Child is This?* Abby Nix**Welcome and Announcements**Ben Phillips,
Pastor of Ministries**The Song of Ascent** *God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.***Congregation** *The First Noel*

The First Noel, the Angels did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
 In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
 That hath made Heaven and earth of naught
 And with his blood mankind has bought.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!

The Kids of the Kingdom *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen***ADORATION OF GOD****Call to Worship:**

Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth... sing for joy.
 Shout from the top of the mountains... give glory to the LORD, and declare his
 praise in the coastlands. – Isaiah 12.1-2

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation**Declaration of Truth:** Isaiah 12.3-6**Leader:** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:**All:** *“Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”***CAROLFEST 6:30PM**

Join us at 6:30pm for our time of singing carols as we celebrate the Incarnation and Second Coming of Jesus, our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord.

Hymn of Praise *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #208

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light;
 Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
 Ve-ry God, begotten not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
 Glory to God, in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
 Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE**Mission Moment****OUR GIFTS TO GOD****The Gift of Music** *Rose of Bethlehem* Ladies Quartet**Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offerings***The Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving**Hymn of Testimony** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* #223

(Children ages three through third grade may be escorted to Children's Church)
 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
 the angel of the Lord came down,
 and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he — for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind —
 "glad tidings of great joy I bring
 to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

“To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
 the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:

"The heav'nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
 all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
 and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song, addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:
 good will henceforth, from heav'n to men,
 begin and never cease, begin and never cease!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**Reading of God's Word** Luke 2.1-14 (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

All: The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.**Prayer of Illumination****Sermon** *“Merry”* Pastor John
*Christmas Mini-Series: Christmas Notes from Christmas Carols***OUR RESPONSE****Prayer of Application****Hymn of Response** *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* #211

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
 Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas day,
 To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray;

Refrain:

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, A blessed angel came;
 And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same:
 How that in Bethlehem was born The son of God by name.

"Fear not then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright,
 This day is born a Savior Of a pure virgin bright,
 To free all those who trust in him From Satan's pow'r and might."

The shepherds at those tidings Rejoic-ed much in mind,
 And left their flocks a'feeding, In tempest, storm, and wind:
 And went to Bethlehem straightway, The Son of God to find.

The Benediction and Threefold Amen