

Great Christmas Songs Teach Great Theological Truth about Christ

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pastor Phillips Brooks (1835-1903) of Philadelphia, wrote the words in 1868. His church organist Lewis Redner (1831-1908) wrote the music.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wandering love
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the king and peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us our Lord Emmanuel!

Christmas is about Christ! Christians Don't Need to Be Afraid of Santa
But Christians Do Need to Focus on the Savior > Santa

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote the original words in 1739. The melody is based on a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847).

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 th' 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 Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace; Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Take This To Heart

Great Christmas Songs Teach Great Theological and Practical Truth!

Both of these songs emphasize the truth of the Incarnation (God becoming a Human Being in Jesus). Phil 2:5-11 also teaches this truth not an end in itself but as the foundation for the practical exhortations taught in Phil 2:3-4: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

The Bottom Line: Following the example of Jesus, believers should freely submit ourselves to a lifestyle of servanthood to the glory of God even though this will involve giving up certain rights/privileges.

Believers Need/The Bible Teaches Theology AND Practicality

Theology without Practicality = Dry Orthodoxy

Practicality without Theology = Moralistic Pragmatism