

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GUIDE
Hymns of Hope - Volume 2
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | December 7, 2025



QUICK UPDATES

Share any upcoming church events and handle housekeeping for the Gospel Community.

CONNECT

When you think about this Advent season, what feels more real to you right now; the peaceful nativity scenes in your home, or the chaos of your calendar and relationships? Why?

REVIEW

Have someone read the passage out loud from the ESV translation or something similar. Reflect on any insights, questions, or parts that stood out from the text or the sermon. Then read the summary below.

The lyrics of Hark! the Herald Angels Sing traces the story of the gospel: God enters, reconciles, and restores. The incarnation is God joyfully stepping into our flesh and our mess. The angels' song announces real peace with God, as Jesus reconciles God and sinners through his life, death, and resurrection. Wesley's hymn also points to restoration: in Christ we are already made new and will one day be fully raised and renewed when he returns.

LEARN & LIVE

These questions help us grasp the truth of the passage and consider how to live it out.

- Read John 1:14, What does it mean that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” and how does Wesley’s line “veiled in flesh the Godhead see” help you picture that reality more clearly?
- Colossians 1:19, How does the idea that it “pleased” God for all his fullness to dwell in Christ, impact the nagging feeling that God came into our world reluctantly or begrudgingly?
- Luke 2:13-14, According to the angels’ announcement, what kind of peace does Jesus bring, and how is that different from just having a calm schedule or a conflict-free home?
- The hymn declares, “God and sinners reconciled!” How would you explain that phrase from Scripture to someone who has never heard the gospel before?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” In what ways does the idea of “second birth” in the hymn echo Paul’s teaching about new creation?
- The sermon said that reconciliation means the barrier is not just minimized but gone. What passages or truths from Scripture help you believe that your sin has been truly dealt with in Christ?
- Think about the “already-not yet” tension described (new heart now, future resurrection later). How would you describe this tension in your own words and does it shape the way we live as disciples right now?
- Wesley calls Jesus “Immanuel” (God with us). How does that name connect to moments in the Gospels where Jesus draws near to the weary, sinful, or broken?
- The sermon reminded us that peace starts when God draws near, not when life gets easier. Where do you see that pattern at work in the Bible’s story (for example, in Israel’s wilderness or the early church)?
- This hymn is described as a deeply Christian hymn rather than a generic Christmas carol. Read through its lyrics. What specific biblical truths or phrases in it anchor your worship more deeply in the story of Scripture?

GO DEEPER

These questions invite us to slow down and wrestle with what's going on beneath the surface. Use these to go a little deeper or in your Huddle Groups.

- Where does this season of your life feel less than peaceful for you right now, and how might Jesus' peace, rather than a change in circumstances, meet you in that exact place?
- The sermon said God doesn't just "put up with you" but joyfully entered your story. Deep down, do you tend to imagine God as pleased with you in Christ, or distant and disappointed? What has shaped that internal picture?
- If reconciliation means the barrier is truly gone, where in your life do you still live as if there's distance between you and God, like He's "in the corner with arms crossed" instead of on the couch beside you?
- Jesus came not only to be with us and pardon us, but to change us. Where do you see evidence, even small signs, that God is already making you new? Where do you still resist his restoring work?
- "Born to give them second birth" points to a deep inner change, a transformation of the heart and mind. Do you think you've genuinely experienced the new life that Christ brings?
- If you answered 'yes' above - How would you describe your own experience of it?
- In what ways are you tempted to chase peace through control, performance, relationships, or possessions, and how does the gospel of "God and sinners reconciled" expose and re-route those pursuits?
- The sermon highlighted the already-not yet ache of life with Christ. Where do you most feel that ache? (grief, ongoing sin, strained relationships, etc) How might fixing your hope on the coming restoration sustain you in the present?
- If rejoicing is more than just feeling happy, what might it look like for you to "rejoice with the angels" in the midst of an unresolved situation or ongoing suffering this week?
- **How is the Spirit inviting you personally to respond and what will you do differently this week? Is there anywhere you need help to make that happen?**

PRAY

- Pray about one way God spoke to you tonight through His Word.
- Pray by name for someone in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus.
- Pray for the needs of those in the group.
- Pray for this ministry area of Redeemer: [Pray for the preaching ministry of Redeemer.](#)

5 GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

We want to be full of grace as we meet, deepening our relationship with one another and with Christ. These five values help us know our **P.L.A.C.E.** in our GC's and Huddles.

1. **Pray** - Prayer is a space for confession, struggle, and praise. Keep requests focused on yourself and your immediate family, so we can pray specifically and personally.
2. **Listen** - Be present and attentive. Share with humility, be mindful of time, and remember: silence is okay.
3. **Apply** - Answer honestly. Consider how God's Word speaks into your life, and what it might look like to respond.
4. **Confess** - Confession and repentance are signs of maturity. We meet one another with grace, not shame.
5. **Encourage** - Practical advice is helpful, but truth is better. Speak the gospel into each other's hearts and stories.

COMMENTARY EXCERPT:

No Commentary This Week