ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Hymn Devotion – December 16

Scripture: Luke 2:10-12

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

*Refrain*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:

*Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.

*Refrain*

Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear;  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.

*Refrain*

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Angels, shepherds, sages and saint – from the heavenly hosts to the lowly of humankind are invited to come and worship Christ, the newborn King – The invitation is still open to all to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – worship Him not only at Christmas but every day!

1. Where were the angels from?
2. Where is their flight?
3. What did they sing?
4. What are they now proclaiming?
5. Verse 2: Who were in the field?
6. What were they doing?
7. Who is God now residing with?
8. What yonder shines?
9. Verse 3: What are the sages to leave?
10. What does the star offer up?
11. How is Jesus described?
12. What have they seen?
13. Verse 4: Where are the saints?
14. How are we watching long?
15. What happens?
16. Where will He appear?
17. The Chorus: What is the invitation?
18. Who are we to worship?

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

Hymn Devotion – December 17

Scripture: Luke 2: 8, 9, 12-14

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  
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign,  
And this shall be the sign.

“The heavenly 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.

“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!”

Nahum Tate (1625-1715)

This hymn starts out like a scene from a play – the shepherds were doing what shepherds do – watching their flocks by night, all seated on the ground – nothing unusual about that then – the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around! Wow!

1. What were the shepherds doing?
2. What happened?
3. What shone around?
4. Verse 2: What was said?
5. What had happened in the minds of the shepherds?
6. What was the nature of their message?
7. Who was this message to?
8. Verse 3: Where was this event to take place?
9. Of whose line?
10. Who is this person?
11. What shall this be?
12. Verse 4: What will they find?
13. To whom will be this display?
14. What will be the state of the display?
15. Verse 5: To whom will the glory be?
16. What will be to earth?
17. What will be henceforth – from that time onward?
18. When is the beginning and end of what has arrived?

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Hymn Devotion – December 18

Scripture: Luke 2:15-18

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,*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

*Refrain*

Latin Hymn (eighteenth century)

Attributed to John Francis Wade

(1711-1786)

Translated by Frederick Oakeley

(1802-1880)

As well as others

Each and every day we should greet Jesus, as if born this happy morning, remembering that Jesus was born by the Word of the Father and was in human flesh appearing on that first Christmas and all that Jesus did while He was here, what He is to us daily and what He has promised to do the future – Let us come and adore Him this day and everyday all year long.

1. Who are to come?
2. Where are they to go?
3. Who are they to behold?
4. Verse 2: Who are to sing?
5. How are they to sing?
6. How are the singers described?
7. What is the song?
8. Verse 3: What are we doing to the Lord?
9. What happened?
10. What is given to Jesus?
11. What is Jesus now?
12. Who’s Word?
13. Chorus: What is the invitation to do?
14. Who are we to adore?

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Hymn Devotion - December 19

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

Luke 2:8-9

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From Heaven’s all gracious King.  
The world in solemn stillness lay,   
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever over its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,   
Whose forms are bending low,   
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,   
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet-bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

Edmond Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

This is a song about the special night that Jesus was born, but also talks about how if we are listening we too can hear the angels above the babble of earthly sounds. The ever circling years will at some time come to an end and the whole earth will return the song that now only angels sing.

1. What came upon the midnight clear?
2. What were the angels doing?
3. What is the message?
4. What was the state of the world?
5. What was heard?
6. Verse 2: Cloven is partly divided or open. How did the angels come?
7. What is still happening?
8. How is the world described?(list all)
9. How do the angels bend?
10. What describes the sounds of the world?
11. How are the angels described?
12. Verse 3: And ye – seems to be saying and you – List all of life’s burdens:
13. What has suddenly came and how?
14. What are we invited to do?
15. Verse 4: Lo can be look – What is the observation?
16. Who saw what will come in the future?
17. How are the years going by described?
18. What will come round?
19. When what will happen?
20. What will the whole world send back?

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Hymn Devotion – December 20

Scripture: Luke 2:20, 13 -14

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,   
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

*Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;   
Come, adore on bended knee,   
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

See Him in a manger laid,   
Whom the choirs of angels praise;   
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,   
While our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

James Chadwick (1813-1882)

This is a joyous song, with the story of the angels singing and the shepherds visiting Bethlehem – the chorus has such a distinctive tune that it brings joy to those singing or hearing the song being sung.

What glad tidings – Good News the angels bring – the news of the birth of Jesus!

1. Who are heard on high?
2. Where are they sweetly singing?
3. What replies?
4. What is echoed?
5. Verse 2: Who are jubilant?
6. What are prolonged?
7. What is another phrase for news?
8. What is the source of the song?
9. Verse 3: What is the first invitation?
10. What did the angels sing?
11. What is the second invitation?
12. Who?
13. Verse 4: Who and what are we to see?
14. Who is singing praise?
15. What is Mary and Joseph asked to do?
16. While what is happening?
17. The Chorus is in French, meaning “Glory to God in the highest.”

What are the repeated lines?