

**Reading Family Church**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Title:** Hark The Herald Angels Sing

**Passage:** Luke 2:8-14; Isaiah 52:7

We started a new mini series on Sunday looking at 3 different Christmas carols. We looked at Hark The Herald on Sunday and unpacked it by looking at the Bible. There were three headings:

1) **The peace we experience because of our King.** We looked briefly at the peace we have because Jesus came. He was God with us, our Immanuel, as the carol says. He came that we may have peace with God, being reconciled to Him. He came also that we may have peace in many situations knowing that he is still with us to this day. Jesus brought us peace and bought us peace.

2) **The good news we can savour because of our King.** We then looked at the fact that the angels declared that they came with good news. We saw that they were declaring something that had been anticipated for at least 1000 years. We then saw all the good news that Jesus himself spoke. Because of this we know that we can look at words like 'veiled in flesh the godhead see, hail the incarnate deity' and know that they are good news to us – Jesus came and walked on this earth, God became man. Ultimately we know that we will have an eternity with him because our sin has been forgiven.

3) **The salvation we enjoy because of our King.** The final aspect we looked at was the fact that the angels were hailing a Saviour. We saw that Jesus was the only one who could save us because we are ultimately being saved from our righteous judgment on the final day. The angels were hailing him now and saying that he has arrived. At Christmas we can celebrate his birth knowing that it is in his birth and life that he was able to conquer death and sin on our behalf.

Finally we looked at the Isaiah verse. The comment was made that the angels were heralds, messengers of the news and they were pretty happy to be bringing the news. They even worshipped God as they told their news. We too are to be heralds. We have been heralds as a church by going to an old peoples party in Whitley; singing, dancing and chatting with them. We have been heralds by going carol singing on a Saturday evening giving away free mince pies in Lower Earley. We have been heralds by going to an old peoples home in Earley and running a Christmas carol service, followed by a time of chatting and getting to know them. This Christmas let's be a people who remember the peace, the good news, and the salvation we have and be ready to share it with anyone who will listen.

**Suggested questions:**

1. What are you most looking forward to this Christmas?
2. What aspect of the good news of Jesus are you savouring this Christmas time?
3. How else can we be a herald at this time of year?
4. What is everyone doing for Christmas? Pray for each other for peace and joy this Christmas.