**5 - Hark the Herald**

I think this is my most chosen and used Christmas Carol most years. It has a fantastic tune and creates a fabulous beginning or end. The words proclaim the arrival of Jesus, they paint a picture of great triumph and grandeur, very much picking up on Jesus the King as opposed to the Jesus the “little, weak and helpless” baby. As with many Carols it is often easier to sing with gusto than consider the words too deeply however 2 lines appeal to me in particular.

1 – “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see” as a description of God becoming a man in Jesus. Veiled implies masked or disguised and I like the idea that as we learn of Jesus’s later life that veil is shifted with every miracle, parable, teaching until at Easter we see God in Jesus.

2 – “Light and life to all he brings” is such a marvellous image in the dark days of winter and the coronavirus. Following Jesus’ commandment to love one another we continue to bring the light and life of God to all we meet. What a responsibility.

The Carol was first printed in a Hymn collection in 1739, written by Charles Wesley and adapted by George Whitefield and others. The music was adapted from “Vaterland, in deinen Gauen” by Felix Mendelssohn.

Wesley requested that any music be slow and solemn even though it was originally intended as a Christmas Day hymn. Nearly all versions now “give it some welly”! We also omit a few of Charles verses which have lost popularity and whose language and content feel dates. “Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface, stamp thy image in its place” “bruise in us the serpent’s head” just two of the lines that might confuse nowadays.

Enjoy these versions especially the house light show!!

<https://youtu.be/wLz4LbhS4_M> organ and lyrics

<https://youtu.be/_C2kDr0gCJo> brass fanfares and Willcocks descant.

<https://youtu.be/NPZpMTRAQDw> ladies accapella mixed with go tell it on the mountain.

[Hark The Herald Angels Sing - Pentatonix - Bing video](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=hark+the+herald+angels+sing&&view=detail&mid=1907D8FA97D06D6FE8681907D8FA97D06D6FE868&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dhark%2520the%2520herald%2520angels%2520sing%26qs%3DMM%26form%3DQBVRMH%26sp%3D1%26ghc%3D1%26pq%3Dhark%2520th%26sc%3D8-7%26cvid%3DD9AEFD066DAD4969AAD90E4F8F362B62) Pentatonix plus house light show!

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

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 Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’nly 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!”