

COME TO THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE UNDER THE STARS

[Luke 2:8-15](#) "...Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

The churches have had many Christmas services since the night when Christ was born, but none can compare with this first service for simplicity and beauty. In fact, this was a unique church service, never to be repeated. Instead of a beautiful cathedral dome, the worshipers had something more beautiful, the dome of heaven studded with sparkling and twinkling stars. Suddenly and unexpectedly church began, and the whole world is now invited to attend this wonderful service.

COME TO THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE UNDER THE STARS

1. LISTEN TO THE PREACHER FROM HEAVEN

The message to be delivered was so important and precious that God chose an unusual preacher. In order to make the sermon more impressive and noteworthy the Lord sent a holy preacher, an angel of light and truth, to deliver this special message. As this angel-preacher appeared, a glory flooded the fields of Bethlehem with heavenly light. They needed no candles or other light in this evening service.

The sermon was even more important than the preacher. The introduction to the sermon was, "Fear not." When the "glory of the Lord shone round about them" the shepherds were afraid, as all sinners are in the presence of the holy God. "Fear not, hear my message and let it dispel all your fears," were the reassuring words introducing this marvelous sermon.

The theme of the angelic preacher's sermon was, "I bring you good tidings of great joy." From heaven, the source of all happiness, the angel brought a special message full of joy for all the people on earth.

"For unto you is born a Savior," was the first point in the sermon of joy. When man fell into sin God promised a Savior as He spoke to them in the garden of Eden. The people of God waited thousands of years for that Savior and now, at last, the Lord has sent Him into the world to fulfill His promise. Was there ever a more important message than that?

The second part of the celestial message was, "For all people." The Savior is for all people, of all nations, of all languages without any exceptions.

Truly this is "good tidings of great joy."

The practical application of the angel's sermon was simple and effective, "Ye shall find the babe in a manger." "Go, see for yourselves, find the babe, and worship the new-born Savior," intimated the angel to the shepherds.

Such a wonderful preacher and his important sermon should be accompanied with special music and singing, and it was.

2. SING WITH THE CHOIR IN HEAVEN

There now appeared in the sky a sight which is beyond any description. Suddenly, countless angels were seen in their robes of glory and they began to sing their song. What notes and what music! Can we imagine perfect music, sung by perfect creatures with perfect voices? We shall have to wait until we get to heaven to hear such singing again. The heavenly choir sang three beautiful stanzas in their holy hymn.



“Glory to God in the highest” was the first stanza of this sublime song. Praise and glory and honor be to the Lord our God is the eternal theme of the holy angels and the redeemed.

The second stanza was “and on earth peace.” The choir of angels was not singing of peace from wars; otherwise they would have been wrong for Jesus said, “Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.” They were singing of the peace of God in the heart, which the Savior brings us by washing us pure in His blood. God in Christ is at peace with the whole world.

The third stanza of their brief song was “Good will toward men.” God has good will toward us and has shown His good will in this gift of His own dear Son for us on Christmas. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.”

What a marvelous church service under the stars of heaven! What a preacher and what a choir! The song and sermon are worthy of each other and fit perfectly together. Such a sermon and song should not go unheard. Who was out there that night in the fields to listen? A surprise awaits us.

3. JOIN THE WORSHIPERS BENEATH HEAVEN

According to our viewpoint we would, perhaps, expect to find the mighty and the great, clothed in robes bedecked with jewels, listening and

watching in this glorious church service. Such was not the case. We are amazed to find lowly and humble shepherds being the audience in this unique service. We might assume that God here revealed the future course of the Gospel, which, in general, shall be as Jesus said in [Luke 10:21](#), "Hid from the wise and prudent, and revealed unto babes." These lowly people were highly honored by the Lord this night.

The humble hearers heard the message of God and accepted His Word without question. They were certain that their Savior was born in Bethlehem, and they immediately went to seek Him. It was not hard to find Him in this little town. Perhaps they were surprised at the place of His birth, but they did not let the lowly surroundings and the manger disturb them at all, but worshiped Him in child-like faith. God's Word was the most important thing with the shepherds and, disregarding everything else, they knelt in devotion before the Christ-child. On the way back to their fields they became the first missionaries to spread the good tidings of great joy. Following the example of the angels, the humble worshipers returned, "Glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen." The sermon of joy transformed these people into men of joy. Year after year we repeat this first Christmas service under the stars, with a human preacher and choir, but with the same joyful message. With true faith, as those first hearers, we accept the message of salvation which the angels brings us, we give our hearts to the new born Redeemer, we join the heavenly choir in praising God who sent His Son to be our Savior, and finally, we obey God's Word and help to spread abroad this glorious Gospel into the whole world. O how happy we are that we came to the Christmas service under the stars! AMEN

PRAYER. Dear Savior, on this night of Thy birth we listen with renewed amazement to the wonderful sermon of Thy heavenly messenger. We raise our voices and join the holy choir in praising Thee for coming to redeem us. We also with humble and believing hearts accept Thee as our only Lord and Savior. Help us to spread abroad into all the world the glorious truth that unto everyone is born this day in the city of David, the only Light of the world. Hear us and help us for Thy holy name's sake, dear Lord. AMEN