

Heaven and Nature sing

3 : Good news for all people

Luke 2:13-14 NLT

Intro

Good Morning Church!!! It is so good to be here with you today. I love that we get to come together every Sunday and worship! It is such a blessing. I'm always so thankful when I get the opportunity to share the word with you.

My name is Pastor Jacob, I'm the youth pastor here at Newsong church. And lets just take a second to welcome any of our first time guests here today! Welcome! You could've been anywhere today but you're here , not by accident or chance. We believe God has a word for you today. And if you're new, watching online let us know! We would love to connect with you

Can you believe it , Christmas is only a few days away!!!

I don't know about you but we've been drinking Hot chocolate at my house, planning on watching christmas movies, and listening to christmas music.

As I was studying for this message I started to wonder what is the history of christmas songs, like how did we end up with Mariah Carey having the #1 christmas song for 20 plus years straight. As I was researching I found an interesting theme.

(4th–12th centuries)

- The earliest Christmas songs were **Christian hymns** in Latin, sung in churches to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Music was solemn and liturgical, not festive.

Medieval carols (12th–15th centuries)

- Christmas music shifted into **Common languages** (English, French, etc.).
- **Carols** emerged—songs with religious themes but **lively rhythms**, often sung in homes or public gatherings.
- Dancing and celebration became part of Christmas music.

Reformation & Renaissance (16th–17th centuries)

- Martin Luther encouraged **congregational singing**, leading to popular hymns like “*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*.”

18th–19th centuries: classic carols

- Many beloved traditional carols were written, including:
 - “*Silent Night*” (1818, Austria)

- *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*
- *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*
- These blended religious meaning with warm melodies.

20th century: secular Christmas songs

- Christmas music expanded beyond church into **popular culture**.
- Radio and records popularized songs like:
 - *“White Christmas”* (1942)
 - *“Jingle Bells”*
 - *“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”*
- Themes included winter, nostalgia, romance, and family.

Modern era

- Artists across genres—pop, rock, jazz, R&B—continue creating Christmas music.
- Classics coexist with new hits like *“All I Want for Christmas Is You.”*

Christmas songs evolved from **church hymns** → **festive carols** → **global pop traditions**,

Realize it or not, throughout the years Christ was slowly taken out of Christmas songs . The focus was on the savior of the world and shifted to themes of Romance, Gift exchanges, kept becoming more and more inward focus. Im not saying secular christmas songs are evil

But its interesting how the world can and will change the meaning of something. Don't Forget the real reason for the season.

I love Christmas music, but there's something different when you hear a song that truly glorifies the creator and it's a Christmas song.

One of my favorite christmas songs came out in 2007, and its actually from a christian rock group. Its a song about Baby Jesus in the manger

The lyrics are what really got me and this is what it says

“And the first time that You opened Your eyes

Did You realize that You would be my Savior?

And the first breath that left Your lips

Did You know that it would change this world forever?”

AND later on in the song

“To look back and think that

This baby would one day save me

In the hope that what You did

That You were born so I might really live

To look back and think that

This baby would one day save me”

Not every song in the top 100 christ glorifying , some even try to take him out of the song.

But how many of us know that we need more songs that give all the glory to Jesus?

Meaning of series

We have been in a series called “Heaven and Nature sing” and it’s all about Christmas songs...well sort of...

We have been looking at various songs from the Gospels that were sung before Jesus' birth, or even after.

In week 1, we learned about Marys Song, we saw that she worshipped God for the miracle of the coming

messiah and through her story and song we can also turn our worry into worship

In week 2, we learned about Zechariah's song.....that through our doubt, God is still faithful and he makes good on his promises

Today we will be looking at a song that's a little different, it actually comes from a multitude of Angles

PRAY

In this passage we see a beautiful, powerful song that leads to history being changed forever. Before we get to the song lets go a few verses back and set the scene. And lets read over this passage together

8That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

9Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, **10**but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **11**The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **12**And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

13Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is

pleased.”

15When the angels had returned to heaven, the

shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem!

Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord

has told us about.”

You probably noticed this song is a lot shorter compared to the two songs from last week.

Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is

pleased.” That’s it, that’s the song

Although it's shorter, it still holds so much power!

most of us might be familiar with this song or . Maybe you saw it in children's plays throughout the years at church before . or Even charlie brown taught you this song

This is a passage of scripture every christian knows. You might be able to recite everything we just read, but how well do we REALLY know what's going on in these short few verses. So I just want to take a few moments to highlight some things

The audience:

Verse 8 sets the scene, we find Shepherds doing what they do best.... Watching sheep. It was a SILENT night and then it gets interesting really quick

It might seem normal to us that shepherds are the audience to this heavenly concert, because we've seen

this moment played out in songs and media, like movies, shows. Even the little nativity scene. Of course the angel would appear to shepherds.

But if we dig a little deeper, we learn that in an Ancient Jewish society, Shepherds were nearly at the bottom of the totem poll, the only person worse than a shepherd was someone who had leprosy.

Shepherds were marginalized, seen as outcasts.

Pastor and Theologian John MacArthur put it this way: *Shepherds were uneducated and unskilled, increasingly viewed in the post-New Testament era as dishonest, unreliable, characters, so much so that they were not allowed to testify in court.*

Because sheep required care seven days a week, shepherds were unable to fully comply with the man-made Sabbath regulations developed by the Pharisees.

As a result, they were viewed as being in continual violation of the religious laws, and hence ceremonially unclean.

That is not to say, however, that being a shepherd was an illegitimate or disreputable occupation. Two of the greatest figures in Israel's history, Moses (Ex. 3:1) and David (1 Sam. 16:11–13), were shepherds at some point in their lives.

Society saw shepherds one way but Scripture tells a different story. Abraham was shepherd, Moses, King David. Jesus calls himself a good shepherd. You can see throughout scripture the role of a shepherd is used to convey Jesus's Love and care.

Isn't it amazing that God is sending the Good news to the lowly shepherds first. He does not choose to send this

message to the kings , or the rulers in Rome. He does not even send it to the priest and Pharisees first.

He wanted the lowly , the outcast, the marginalized to hear the good news first. That his son was born, that the savior from our sins has come.

Its not about how wealthy you are, or what your social status is, how many followers you have on instagram or tiktok.

You don't have to be a rich man to hear about the savior of the world, you don't have to have it all together, you just need to be available!

God does not operate by the world's standards

The good news is free to all. The good news is still available today for us who feel like we are not seen or loved or who feel like society looks down on us because we don't fit the measure of success.

What is the good news? Simply , Jesus came to this earth, lived a perfect sinless life, then he died on the cross, he took on the death that we deserved , and 3 days later he rose from the dead!!! And guess what.. He's coming back again!!! And when you accept this good news, and repent , turn away from your sins , you become in right standing with God. God does not see you for your sins or you mistakes but sees you as covered by the blood of Jesus!

Jesus's Love is a gift to ALL

Okay lets focus back on the angel and what they had to say

9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them.

They were terrified. ***10but the angel reassured them.***

“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. Luke 2:9-10

An Angel shows up its nightmare before christmas

Isn't it kinda funny whenever a Angel shows in the bible, the first words that come out of their mouth is “DO NOT BE AFRAID”

Im just saying angels probably don't like fat chubby little babies with wings, If you ever read Ezekiel and tell me if you wouldn't be afraid too

But the angel reassured them, Luke 2:11-12 The angel goes on to say

11The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

The savior, the messiah, the Lord. the shepherds probably knew the messiah was coming at some point, maybe they heard about it, But I bet they didn't expect an angel to show up to announce this to them! They probably felt like theyd be the last to find out.

Would you have thought the savior, the king of Kings , the lord of lords , would show up as a baby, in a poor family, being born and laid in a manger?

You would picture a savior to come down from heaven as a king, as a man, riding in on a white horse. Ready to pick up his sword and fight against the roman empire . Or maybe if he came as a baby it would be in a palace. Being born into a royal family, wrapped in fine purple robes, in a golden cradle.

But God doesn't operate by the world's standards. Jesus didn't come with an army but he came to the lowly. Jesus knew what it was to be human, he knew what it was like to be tired and work long hours and be hungry, to

struggle, he knew what it was like to be hated and insulted.

When we come to Jesus, we meet a savior who understands us.

Hebrews 4:15

New International Version

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Lets continue with the angels song in luke 2:13

“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.””

This song's emphasis, while certainly it was an announcement, was to bring glory to God.

The word "Praise" in verse 13 is an expression of approval, commendation, admiration, awe, worship and extolling God. In the New testament this verb is fittingly used only for God!

When the angels praise God it's not about them putting on a show for one another but about bringing ultimate glory to our Creator.

This is one of those moments that I wish I could see play out.

Up until this point the Jewish people had not heard from God for 400 years. So Imagine how they felt when they saw the angels literally lighting up the night sky and in an instant the shepherds were surrounded by tens of

thousands of angels. Imagine the shepherds being in awe of the power of God and listening to the Angels give their entire praise to God.

How would you feel if you saw this happening... That would be something we would never forget and something we would never stop talking about

They did not wait or question what they saw. They sprung right into action to go see the messiah

The savior that they were looking for, waiting for was born! What's even more amazing is he was going to give them eternal peace and truly save them and they didn't even realize it

15When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16*They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.*

Verse 17

17*After seeing him,(Jesus, the savior, the messiah) the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18***All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,**

Lastly for your notes is this

2. The Good news is not meant to be kept for ourselves

Church the good news always calls for a response.

The angels share the good news and glorify God

The shepherds hear the good news and they share it which brings glory to the creator

Once you accept as your savior , you have to answer the question “what are you going to do with the message of Jesus?”

Are you going to follow him and keep it to yourself, or are you going to be like the shepherds , who told what they saw God do right in their own lives.

***17After seeing him,(Jesus, the savior, the messiah)
the shepherds told everyone what had happened and
what the angel had said to them about this child.***

See the shepherds didn't go to bible college or get their masters in theology. They weren't the perfect christian who had all the words ready. They were available.

They spoke from what they saw God do in their own life.

They brought that news in their everyday life, right to their

people group. So we can do the same thing! We can talk about what God has done for us in our own life, you can boldly share about how God has moved mountains in your life and how God can do it for that friend or that coworker or that neighbor.

God will use whoever is available to share the good news. And church when you share that good news, the love of Jesus, you have no idea how that can change someone's life. You have no idea how someone's entire world can change because of Jesus.

If the worship team can come up as we begin to close

Story of Uncle Cha:

My great uncle went to be with the lord about a month ago.

As I was talking with my siblings and just processing. I felt an overwhelming feeling of gratitude and peace.

My great uncle lived to 98. He lived a very long life.

He lived an eventful life, that truly left a legacy behind for his family.

Some of my family will say he was veteran, a hero, who played a part in the world war.

Some will say he was a successful artist, who painted so many beautiful paintings by hand.

But the legacy that will forever remain is that he had the boldness to share the gospel. My uncle cha didnt realize in the moment. But when he shared the gospel with my parents more than 27 years ago , we were on the brink of divorce, That it would effectively change my entire family. There are now generations that know and love Jesus because of that one moment. I Grew up knowing about Jesus and now serve him, all of my siblings grew up knowing Jesus. My sister is serving him in ministry, my Niece and nephews who are 4 and 5, they are currently growing up knowing and loving Jesus!!!

Church dont doubt the power of sharing the gospel !!!!

Don't think your story is too small, or it doesn't really matter! God will use you in every area of your life if you let him!!

Church can we all stand together for a moment

We always end our messages with the question what is the holy spirit saying to you:

Maybe you're here and you are realizing that you have been holding onto the good news message you accepted for yourself but maybe you are struggling with sharing it to others.

Church the enemy wants you to stay stuck in your thoughts, he wants to keep you quiet . He doesn't want you to share the gospel with your family or your friends or your coworkers.

What if we became a church who decided to be like the shepherds, what if we became a church that said from this day forward, I will bring the gospel message with me wherever I go. Not that we have all the right words to say but we are willing to be available today and everyday going into 2026.

If thats you today I want to pray for you,

Would you just lift up your hand simply as sign of availability to christ, lets pray

PRAY

If you are here today and you are listening to this christmas story and you realized you are far away from God than you thought.

Friend let me remind you that the savior has come and he will give you peace. Once you turn to God he will be right there. You are never too far gone for Christ, once you reach out your hand he will pull you out of the fire. If you're here today or watching online and you don't know Jesus, Hes calling you today!!

PRAY

Before we dismiss you, We want to sing a song together