

Themes Of The Carols

TO THE EDITOR:

Hi. I really enjoy singing and listening to Christmas carols as I'm sure you do also and I would like to share with you four basic themes that are covered in some of our favorites.

One: We hear of the birth of Jesus our Savior.

Two: We hear of how Jesus came to save us from our sins.

Three: We hear of how we should receive and enthrone him in our heart.

Four: We hear of how Jesus came to give us new birth or to be born in us.

The scriptures which cover these themes are found in:

One: Luke 2:11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Two: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Three: Ephesians 3:17a so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; I Peter 3:15a But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.

Four: John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God;" 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

This message of reconciliation can be heard in these Christmas carols.

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" (first verse)

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen 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. (third verse)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; Above

thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. (first verse)

O holy Child of Bethlehem! descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel! (third verse)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? (first verse)

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear for sinners here The silent Word is pleading, (second verse)

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, rich and poor, to own Him. The King of Kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. (third verse)

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, And man is blessed evermore: Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this! (second verse)

... Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all To Gain His everlasting hall; Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save! (third verse)

This message has been heard, quite a few times; So why think it's absurd, to receive Jesus and call Him mine. He lovingly desires, to fill us with His love; so that we may be heirs, with Him in heaven above. O come to Him, this very day; confess your sin, and you will not have to say: "It's too late, I should have done it yesterday."

Let the third verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" be your prayer to receive Jesus as your Savior this holiday season.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to me I pray, Cast out my sin and enter in be born in me today, I hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to me, abide with me My Lord Emmanuel!

May God Bless You.

Name Withheld

Montezuma, Ohio

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