

First Christian Church, Chehalis

Order of service:

Advent candle lighting and reading

Sonshine Seekers – Angels We Have Heard On High

Baptism

Now I Belong To Jesus (chorus)

Opening prayer / scripture – John Johnstone

Angels We Have Heard On High, hymn #93 – all verses

NOTE: the origin of this song is explained on the following page.

Prayer – John Johnstone

I Wonder As I Wander, hymn #104 – all verses

Sacrament of Communion – John Johnstone

Offering Thought and Prayer – Denise Marshall

MESSAGE: Advent – “The Love Of God...”

Good Christian Men Rejoice, hymn #98 – verses 1,3

Closing prayer – John Johnstone

Merry Christmas One and All

Food for Thought:

God is love...

“Angels We Have Heard On High” - The History

by C. Michael Hawn and Jeanne Larson Williams

The carol first entered into Methodist hymnals in 1935 in an anonymous version from the play, *The Nativity*. It uses the text, "Hearken all! what holy singing now is sounding from the sky!" The melody is the same, but the harmonization was modified in the 1966 *Methodist Hymnal* by the well-known anthem composer Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010). The 1966 *Methodist Hymnal* also changed the text to "Angels we have heard on high" because of the popularity of the text used in anthems at the time.

The English translation by James Chadwick (1813-1882), Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, was taken from *Crown of Jesus* (1862), subtitled, "a complete Catholic manual of devotion, doctrine, and instruction." The carol was found in the section headed "The Twelve Mysteries of the Sacred Infancy" with the title "Christmas Hymn," reduced to four stanzas in English.

The original text is changed in the 1966 *Methodist Hymnal*, and the 1989 *The United Methodist Hymnal* continues the changes with one exception: stanza three changes "him" to "Christ" for inclusive language reasons.

"Angels we have heard on high" is a song of invitation from Christians to others to come celebrate Christ's birth with them. The carol begins in a festive spirit, but then, in the second stanza, asks why there is a celebration. In the third stanza, an invitation to is given to join the celebration. The fourth stanza concludes the carol with the observation of Christ's birth and the Christian's joyful response.

"Angels We Have Heard On High" is a perfect song to accompany the French tradition of the *crèche*.