

SOUL FOOD

November /December 2020

And lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.



The Shepherds Saw a Great Light

.....Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Glory to God in the Highest by the Rev. Walter E. Orthwein

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:14).

If our own time seems dark, it was darker still on the night when the Lord was born. There was sadness, even in heaven, over how cold and dark the spiritual atmosphere of our world had grown.

*But then, when the great event which had been foretold for so long came to pass, the **hearts of the angels were uplifted and overflowed with joy, and the good tidings from heaven spilled over onto earth.***

Shepherds were watching over their flocks when suddenly a bright light from heaven lit up the night sky over the fields of Judea, and an angel announced the joyful news that the Saviour had been born.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

*Do not imagine that because this story has such a sweet and childlike simplicity about it that it is less than true. Nothing truer was ever recorded in all history! Nor is the truth of it just historical. **"The multitude of the heavenly host"** that sang to the shepherds **are the truths of the Lord's Word** (see Arcana Coelestia 344).*

So these good tidings are repeated for us whenever we take up the Lord's Word and read it with a humble desire for the Lord to speak to us.

*Our text expresses a beautiful sentiment, but, more than that, this brief chorus **sums up everything the Lord taught while He was in the world:***

love to the Lord

and love to the neighbor.

*The whole Word is contained in this heavenly greeting! "**Glory to God in the highest....**" This comes first. This is the context and condition which is necessary if the angelic promise of peace on earth is to become a reality. The Lord is the Source of all peace, and, however much people may wish for peace and strive to bring it about, **without Him we can do nothing.***

*To "**give glory to God in the highest**" means to **acknowledge Him and worship Him and love Him above all else, and to live in the light of His Word** (see *Apocalypse Explained* 678).*

*The world wants peace, but is the world willing to turn to the Source of peace and give glory to God in the highest? The two things are inseparable, because **the Lord is the Prince of Peace, and only where He rules can there be true peace.***

"peace on earth, good will toward men."

*The Lord and His angels will nothing but good to people on earth, but **only those whose will is also good can receive heaven's blessing of peace.***

*When the natural part of our being is **opened to the Lord's life flowing in through the internal mind**, then we can know peace.*

*A peaceful world cannot be realized by any device of human reason, but only **from the sphere of peace going forth from people whose hearts and minds and lives are ruled by the Lord.***

*Everything that comes from the Lord brings peace with it (see *Apocalypse Revealed* 306).*

***All things of heaven and the church create peace—
the warmth of love,
the soft light of truth,
the sweetness of charity,
the satisfaction of use,
the trust in Divine Providence,***

the worship that exalts the soul and gives meaning to all of life.

Peace flows from the two heavenly loves—love of the Lord and love of the neighbour—as a stream flows from a fountain

Only when people turn from self and the world to the Lord and heaven can the angelic promise be fulfilled. And it will be fulfilled! But we must look for its fulfillment and ***work for its fulfillment in ourselves.*** Rather than lament the lack of peace in the world around us, we should ***concentrate on preparing ourselves to contribute to the sphere of peace from heaven*** that the world so sorely needs.

"Shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night"—what a strange audience to choose for the greatest announcement ever made. But ***they represent innocence***, the essence of which is ***willingness to follow the Lord.***

And although ***night time*** represents an obscure state, one of lacking knowledge, it is also a ***reflective time***, when the world is still and ***we are not distracted by the many busy sights of day.***

If we will reflect on the Lord's Word from a simple, humble willingness to live by it, we too can become more certain of our faith and return to our lives glorifying and praising God for the marvellous things He has revealed to us. ***Perhaps one of the things that will be revealed is that we are not alone***, but that the Lord's love is working through the lives of many more people than we ever realized, that ***His kingdom is growing***, and that ***there is reason to rejoice.***

It is not by human will and effort that this comes to pass. The Lord was born on earth to make this possible. ***He united the Divine and the Human in Himself so that we might see God*** and, in following Him, have the internal and external parts of our lives joined together.

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ***"Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."***

Isaiah 60:1-6; Luke 2:1-20; Apocalypse Explained 678:2-4

November

Sun1st <i>Logo Praxis</i> 8:30am	10:30am Worship 5:30pm <i>Observing Spirit</i>	<i>Trevor's</i>
Sun 8th	10:30 am Worship and Godly Play Lunch 5:30pm <i>Observing Spirit</i>	<i>Aubin grove</i>
Sun 15th <i>Logo praxis</i> 8:30am	Worship 10:30 and Holy Supper with Trevor	Groat st.
Sun 22nd	<i>Home worship</i>	
Sun 29th <i>Logo praxis</i> 8:30am	<i>10:30am Worship and Godly Play</i>	<i>Aubin Grove</i>
December		
<i>Sun 6th</i> 8.30am <i>Logo Praxis</i>	10:30am seminar by Sarah Walker and lunch	David Walker's
<i>Sun 13th</i>	10:30am Worship with Tableaux	<i>Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sun 20th</i>	10:30am Worship Christmas service lunch	Groat str
<i>Sun 27th</i>	<i>10:30am Worship and Godly Play and lunch</i> 5:30pm <i>Observing Spirit</i>	<i>Aubin Grove</i>

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***We are all created to become angels of Heaven
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

LOGO PRAXIS is available online using Zoom at many times. Our Perth participants meet at 8.30am every second Sunday. This is a spiritual practice which leads to closer connection to the Lord. For information contact Sarah 0414540836

Logopraxis: <http://logopraxis.online/sermons/leave-your-gift-at-the-altar-part-i/>

On Line Sunday worship

Live (7:00am WA time)Hurstville

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAGnuXghYSi5ILGHmZETbFw>

Live (3pm WA) from Westville South Africa: is broadcast live on Westville New Church Face Book, or can be viewed later.

<https://www.facebook.com/newchurchwestville/>

Bryn Athyn: <https://newchurchaudio.org/>

David Millar: <http://logopraxis.online/guided-meditations/psalm-46-guided-meditation/5947/> for meditations.

ONLINE donations Westpac

Church: BSB 036-302: ACC 189720

Godly Play: BSB 036-019 ACC 258487

*Our Charity is **Starting Over Support** BSB 036-019 ACC 230169*