

Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."

This popular carol is sung around the world by millions every year. However, do you know what "God and sinners reconciled" actually means? Who is a sinner, and how can a sinner be reconciled to God?

Most people think that they are good¹ and are not guilty of sinning against God. Ask yourself the following questions, being honest with yourself and listening to your conscience²:

- Have you ever lied - including fibs, white lies, and half-truths?
- Have you ever stolen anything, regardless of its value?
- Have you ever used God's name as a swear word, or without due respect?
- Have you ever loved anything else more than God?

The questions above are based on the Ten Commandments³. If you answered "yes" to any of them, you are guilty of breaking God's holy Law. That is what a sinner is - someone who has broken God's Law⁴.

When God, Who is absolutely holy and just, judges you by this standard, will you be found innocent or guilty? If you're honest, you will admit being guilty. All of us are guilty sinners⁵ deserving God's punishment⁶. God's goodness - the thing that many people hope will save them from His judgment - is actually the very thing that will condemn them. God is loving, merciful, and forgiving; but He is also holy and just, and must punish every sinner. Our sin is so offensive to God that anyone who has broken even one of His commandments⁷ is condemned to an eternity in Hell⁸.

Having broken God's law, how will you pay your eternal fine? The Bible tells us that our good deeds are of no value to God⁹. However, God loved you so much and He knew you could not pay your fine. So He made a way for your debt to be settled. Over 2000 years ago, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born as a baby to Mary in Bethlehem¹⁰. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, and then became our substitute by suffering and dying a painful death on a cross. He died a criminal's death - not because He had broken the Law, but because we had¹¹. Christ's sacrificial death satisfied God's holiness and justice¹². He took the punishment we deserve for our sin¹³, so that our sins can be forgiven¹⁴. Jesus then rose from the dead¹⁵ and thus defeated death. He made it possible for us to be saved from our sin and to receive the gift of eternal life¹⁶. This is the true meaning of Christmas, of "God and sinners reconciled"¹⁷!

What must you do to be reconciled to God, to have your sins forgiven and receive eternal life? You must repent¹⁸ (turn from your sins) and put your complete faith in Jesus as your Saviour and Lord. Then, read the Bible daily and obey¹⁹ what you read. For more information visit forlifesusanswers.com or needgod.com

1. Proverbs 20:6 2. Romans 2:15 3. Exodus 20:1-17 4. 1 John 3:4 5. Romans 3:23 6. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 7. James 2:10
8. Revelation 21:8 9. Isaiah 64:6 10. Micah 5:2 11. 2 Corinthians 5:21 12. Isaiah 53:11 13. Romans 5:8 14. Colossians 1:14
15. Acts 17:31 16. Romans 6:23 17. Romans 5:10 18. Acts 17:30 19. 1 Samuel 15:22

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 1:22-23

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born 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!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb: veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun 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. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

1. Whilst shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind), 'glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind'.
3. 'To you in David's town this day is born of David's line a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4. 'the heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid.'
5. 'All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease.'

THE FIRST NOËL

1. The first noël the angel did say was to certain poor Shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus

Noël, noël, noël, noël,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued, both day and night.

Chorus

3. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a King was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Chorus

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west; over Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.

Chorus

5. Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,

and offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Chorus

6. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, who hath made heaven and earth from naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Chorus

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O Come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2. God of God, Light of Light, lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb; Very God, begotten not created.

Chorus

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above, 'Glory to God, glory in the highest':

Chorus

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Chorus

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Chorus

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Sinners, wrung with true repentance, doomed for guilt to endless pains. Justice now revokes the sentence mercy calls you, break your chains.

Chorus

3. Though an infant now we view Him He shall fill His Father's throne. Gather all nations to Him; every knee shall then bow down:

Chorus

SILENT NIGHT

1. Silent night, holy night: all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night: shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!'

3. Silent night, holy night: Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth!

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall; with the poor, and mean, and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And through all His wondrous childhood, He would honour and obey, Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms He lay: Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew; and He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,

through His own redeeming love, for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see Him: but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high, where like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. 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.

2. For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heaven. No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4. 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 their great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive its King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, ricks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.