Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

A typesetter fills out a page

The printer set the type for the Church of Eng-The printer set the type for the Church of England's "Book of Common Prayer." The composition—"make-up" as printers call ft—was giving him trouble. He needed more copy to make the pages come out even. Finding a hymn-poem that began "Hark, how all the welkin rings! Glory to the King of Kings," by an Angelican clergyman named Charles Weeley, the printer filled in the blank space.

In assuming the role of editor, the typesetter teally stuck his neck out. Of all people, Charles Weeley! The doors of every Angelican church in the empire had been closed to both him and his hardier. John. They could preach their Arminian doctrine of "free grace" in barns and pastures, but not in a building of the church they so brazenly criticized.

And certainly no hymn written by one of the "dirty, tousy Methodists" would be tolerated in the Book of Common Prayer. But the printer didn't know all that The book went to press. And "the greatest Christmas bymn in the English language" was saved for posterity.

Learning shorthand from scholarly John Byron, Charles Wesley usually jotted down his poems in a hurry. To write 6500 in one lifetime, considering he didn't get started until he was 31, he had to work rapidly. Nor did he take time to "polish" his poems. "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" has been edited

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 angels hosts procloim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehern."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored, 'Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time beheld Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Velled in flesh and God-head see,
Hall th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to appear,
Jesus our Immanuel here.
Harkl the herald angels sing,
"Glary to the new-born King,"

so many times that hardly a line remains as Wesley,

CHARLES WESLEY'S "Hymn For Christmas Day," as he called it, was picked up by hymn book editors and sung, when it was sung at all, to a dozen different tunes for 117 years. But, in 1840, Germany's boy wonder, Felix Mendelssohn, wrote operas before he was 16—went to Leipzig for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of printing. For the festival, he wrote an opera called "The Festge-

Fifteen years later—in 1855—England's 19-year-ld tenor, William Haymen Cummings, was running trough "The Festgesang" when he realized the teond chorus was a natural for "Harki The Herald ngels Sing."

Angels Sing."

Charles Wesley wrote his first hymn three days after his "conversion" in May, 1738. His "Hymn For Christmas Day" was written for the Christmas of that year. Hence, it was one of his first hymnpoems. But for the printer who used it to fill in space, it might have been lost. But what really "made" that hymn was Mendelssohn's music, written to celebrate the anniversary of Gutenberg's printing press. As it turned out, 'Hark' The Herald Angels Sing" has been sung more than anything else Charles ever wrote . . not excepting "Jesus, Lover Of My Soul."

Hall the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hall the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings:
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man as more grow die!

Come, desire of nations, come!
Fix in us Thy humble home:
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head;
Adam's likeness now efface,
Stamp Thine image in its placet
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.
Hark! the herald angels sing.



From The Book 'A HYMN IS BORN" Copyright 1952 WILCOX-FOLLETT CO., Chicago, Ill.

us whistle as we work.

ion, The Lord hath done things

for them. The Lord hath done great

things for us, Whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:2-3.

The Christian Viewpoint birthday of Jesus, the Christ. We should seek to observe the birthday of the babe of Bethlehem, keeping the Christian observance of Christ-

Prepared By Department of Bible PRESBYTERIAN JUNIOE COLLEGE Maxton, N. C.

It is a long trip by automobile hall he was whistling "What a rom North to Memphis on the triend we have in Jesus, All our sanks of the lordly Mississippi, and sins and griefs to bear. What a aring .So I was sleeping late in privilege to carry everything to of the big hotel by the river- God in prayer." ide. As I awoke I heard the serits counting something in the hall In this big hotel the servants were linen I suppose. Then one of them gan to whistle. As he swept the

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birthday of Jesus, the Christ. We the Christian observance of Christmas rather than the secular observance. The emphasis of the commercialization of Christmas by many people create Christmas as merely another holiday instead of the Holy Season it was meant to be. Some people are more concerned about Santa Claus than about the Christ who came that we might It gave me a contented feeling.

have life. singing Christian hymns. I lay still and listened. He started whistling In seeking to keep Chrismas a Christian observance we should do our utmost to make it Christian. "In the cross, in the cross, Be my During family reunions and partys glory ever, Till my raptured soul through the Christmas season nonshall find, Rest beyond the river."
God has blessed America when
in all our great organizations and
businesses the servants are singing. alcoholic beverages should be used. Gifts and use of alcoholic beverages should be put aside, and the true Christian spirit reign in the And really, all of us are servants hearts of all, supremely. We should all of us are ministering to the do our best to set a personal example of making Christmas a needs and comfort of others in some way. It is a great thing when there Christian observance. We should is a song in our hearts which makes attend a service of worship on Then was our mouth filled with Christmas day and observe that day laughter, And our tongue with sing- as a holy day.

> Money still talks today but doesn't linger long enough for serious

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For Decorations On Hand Xmas

ance by using evergreens, berries, seed pods and pine cones that you have on hand, suggests Pauline Gordon, State College extension specialist in housing and house

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First Sunday Night Third Sunday Morning

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Hallsville Church 1st and 3rd Sunday morings

Beulaville Church Every Sunday morning

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Women of the Church General meeting — Third Tues-day night, Circle No. 1 First Tuesday night

SMITHS

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HEBRON

Third Sundays 4 P. M. (3 P. M. Winter)

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Sunday School every Sunday Morning at 10:00 a. m. Mrs. Ed Smith, Superintendent

morning, 11:00 a. m.

W. H. GOODMAN, PASTOR

strands of popcorn and various de-corations that are saved from year

evergreens, a spray of wreath on your front door - it will signify to many who pass your home that you are celebrating this joyous season A rope of evergreens requires 4 or 5 yards of rope. The place you plan to use it will determine the length. Other materials needed are: Short lengths of wire (about 15 to 18 inches); short sprays of ever-

And be sure to hang a rope of

green; balls, bows, red berries or bells. Place a bunch of evergreen **Drive N Grill**

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spots where an additional decora-tion like berries, ball and bells would be effective and then wire into the decoration.

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To Church Sunday-METHODIST CHURCHES

BY REV. C. HERMAN TRUEBLOOD

TEXT. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans

The 5th chapter of Romans is one of the truly great chapters of the New Testament. In the first eleven verses of this chapter Paul points out what might be designated as the seven wonders, or fruits, of justification whic home to those who, by faith, lay hold of eternal life. These precious fruits of justification are: "Peace," verse 1; "Access," verse 2; "Patience," verse 3; "Hope," verse 4; "Love," verse 5; "Holy Spirit," verse 5; "The Living Christ," verses 6 - 10.

Immediately following Paul's description of justification's seven fruits, he hurries to set forth seven matchless spiritual victories - not of law, not of good deeds, not of rites and ceremonies - but THE VICTORY OF GOD'S GRACE OVER SIN. These seven triumphs of divine grace are revealed in one of the profoundets messages ever penned by Paul the

1. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER ORIGINAL SIN "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned - much more the grace of God, and the gift of grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, ath abounded unto many." Verses 12 and 15.

udgement was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification." Verse 16.

3. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER THE REIGN OF DEATH. "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Verse 17.

as by the offence of one judgement came upon all men to condemnation even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Verse 18.

one shall many be made righteous. Verse 19.

1st Sunday A. M. and 3rd Sunday P. M. General meeting Thursday P. M. grace did much more abound." Verse 20. after 3rd-Sunday. Circle Thurs-day P. M. before 3rd Sunday

7. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER ULTIMATE DEATH. "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might reign through righteousness

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me e was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed! Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come: 'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.





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Dr. Poston, Pastor

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day evening.

Cedar Fork Evening Services 1st and 2nd Sundays 1st. and 3rd. Sundays Hallsville 3rd and 4th Sundays

CALYPSO 2nd and 4th Sundays

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> > HOMES TATLOS cueral Morchandle Magnella, N. C.

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DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Prince of Peace Lesson for December 20, 1953

GOD'S will is for a warless world. No one can read the prophets and make anything else out of it God's will is for peace in this world. Peace among angels, yes, peace beyond death, yes of course: but that is not the whole of it. God's will is for peace among men, peace on this good green earth. So long as there are wars, we know that God's will and intention for mankind is being resisted. God wants a warless

Leader To Peace

world.

One of the many names for Christ is "Prince of Peace," a title given by a prophet long be-

while to look into that title this week and see what exactly is meant by it, for it is much more than a striking phrase. The word "Prince" has nothing necessarily to do with royalty, though it often does. its literal meaning is leader, captain, chief.

Dr. Foreman

As Prince of Peace therefore. our Lord is Leader of Peace, But again, the title may mean more things than one. Let us start with "Leader to Peace." In this sense. Christ is one who points out the road to peace, shows manking what peace means. As the Billie uses the word, peace does not mean simply the ebbing of battle-tide, the lull between attacks. It is not a negative word. If s positive. The kind of peace to which Christ points is not mere indifference, it is based on love and good-will. For instance, and these lines are written, the United States is at peace with Canada; it s also at peace with a dozen other countries that could be mentioned. But while it is barely possible that war might break out with any nation, it is probably less fliely to took out with Canada

than with countries with which we have less in common and for whose people our own people have a much weaker affection Trus peace is based on mutual good will. Jesus taught us much more about peace; for example his reference to "peace-makers." But w must pass on.

Leader Of Peace

As Prince of Peace our Lord also Leader of Peace. That if i say, where Christ is known honored and in name on; actually known and loved). 19 peace is far more likely to be t where He is not known. It is more said at civilization it was No c abt it does; b seven bree 's even more. ? thes are in an almost per state of we are. It is also n caristian natio: ng. On the oth sked: Where hristian natio irs? Are the the aggresso rise to the sion?

centain. B mist. was tter of c hered to ir fight and m years, nati a bad co. and the ince why it was var. At ic

put out to necessary to dec Christian ness are aware to the road of war les never the right load except as a Leader By Peace

Another measure that may fairly be given to "Leader by Parce" That is to say, the leadership and Lordship of Christ is never one of chercian There have been leaders by the sword: there have been leaders by lies, for the human race is all

too easily misled there is one and

last resort.

only one Leader of men who will reign only through love. At Christmas time men often wonder why it is that the angels' song has never been fulfilled. Peace has not come on earth to stay. Peace is always pictured as a bird poised for flight. The full reign of the Prince of Pears seems to be so slowly coming.

The reason is that unlike all earthly leaders. Christ will have none in his kingdom who is not there by his own free will. God could no doubt beat the world into silent submission in a very short time. It is not beyond the power of the Almighty to bring war y

Speed on anti-near coverience as the control of the control of the coverience of the control of

The Abounding Grace Of God

REV. W. B HOOD, PASTOR
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Every Sunday Morning
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Blacks Chapel
3rd Sunday night BEV J. M. NISBETT, PASTOR Bookfish Church 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings

REV. NORMAN FLOWERS Warsaw Church
Every Sunday morning
Bowden Community Church
1st, 3rd, and 5th. Sunday evenings

2. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER OVERT OFFENCES. "For the

4. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER CONDEMNATION. "Therefore

5. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER DISOBEDIENCE. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of

6. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER BROKEN LAW. "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded

unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Verse 21.









