

ANGELS FROM THE REALM OF GLORY Worksheet

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Verse 1

Angels from the realm of glory,
Wing our flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim the Messiah's birth.

Refrain

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

Verse 2

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant light:

Refrain

Verse 3

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.

Refrain

Verse 4

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.

Refrain

Verse 5

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

Refrain

Verse 6

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:

Refrain

Verse 7

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

Note: In place of the verse "Sinners, wrung with true repentance" some hymnals use the following, written in 1855 by Isaac Gregory Smith:

Lord of Heaven, we adore Thee,
God the Father, God the Son,
God the Spirit, One in glory,
On the same eternal throne.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lord of Heaven, Three in One.

Vocabulary In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: realm, o'er, proclaim, Messiah

Refrain: Worship

Verse 2: abiding, residing, yonder

Verse 3: sages, contemplations, visions, ye, natal

Verse 4: saints, altar, descending

Verse 5: wrung, repentance, doomed, justice, revokes, mercy

Verse 7: eternal; Three in One

Word Pictures Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: Wing our flight o'er all the earth

Verse 2: shepherds in the field; watching o'er flocks by night; Infant light

Verse 3: leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam; natal star

Verse 4: before the altar bending

Verse 5: sinners wrung; doomed for guilt; break your chains

Verse 6: gather all nations; every knee shall ... bow

Verse 7: all creation join in praising; voices raising

Mechanics are the nuts and bolts of a poem. Verbally discuss.

Who is the speaker? (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character? (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone? (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

Does the poem have a setting? (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

Is the poem about a particular event? (Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?)

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly? (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

What point of view or perspective is the speaker? (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time? (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: What is being proclaimed? Who is proclaiming it? Who “sang creation’s glory”?

Verse 2: Who are in the field and what are they doing? Explain: “God with us is now residing.” What is yonder and why is it important?

Verse 3: Who should leave their contemplations? Why? What should they seek? Why? What have they seen? Why is this important?

Verse 4: Who are before the altar? What are they doing? What shall appear?

Verse 5: What is a sinner? According to the author, what is being “wrung”? What breaks chains?

Verse 6: What does the author tell us we are viewing? Who shall gather? What will they do?

Verse 7: Who will be praising according to the author? Why?

The Book of Luke is very helpful in understanding this historic event. What part of Luke do you enjoy the most?

What Does the Bible Say?

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the seven verses and the refrain.

Read Isaiah 53 and compare with the Nativity described in the Book of Luke.

After reading this poem, what character traits did you think of? What does the Bible have to say about these character traits?

The Author/Poet

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The name of the author for this poem or lyric is James Montgomery (1771-1854). He was born 4 November 1771, Irvine, Ayrshire, Scotland, and died 30 April 1854, Mount, Sheffield, England. Montgomery wrote over 400 hymns.

Geography

Locate Scotland and England on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate Irvine, Ayrshire and Sheffield on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather from Scotland and England with your own for one week.
Make a Scottish and/or English meal for your family.

Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be eight different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the historic event discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the historical event of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., angels, heads of nations either current / past, Joseph, Mary, the wise men, shepherds, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

5) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author's view of the impact of *Angels From the Realm of Glory*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about James Montgomery and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.