



Vinton Baptist
Church
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Wednesday, December 1st- 6:30 pm

Silent Night- Luke 2:8-20

1. Silent Night

*Silent Night was first sung at Midnight Mass on December 31, 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria with two male vocalists accompanied by guitar.

-An untrue legend: the story of Silent Night being written in haste for guitar, because church mice had eaten the bellows of the organ.

*The poem was written by Joseph Mohr in 1816. Guitar music was composed by Franz Gruber two years later.

*The Austrian popular singing family, the Strasser Family, popularized the song in 1832.

2. The Reaction to Good News

*Luke's birth narrative can be divided into three parts:

1. The setting of Jesus' birth as Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5)
2. Jesus' actual birth (Luke 2:6-7)
3. The Angel's announcement and the reaction to it (Luke 2:8-20)

-This third section can also be divided into three reactions:

1. The reaction of the shepherds (Luke 2: 15-17, 20)
2. The reaction of those whom the shepherds tell (Luke 2:18)
3. Mary's reaction (Luke 2:19)

*How can we use the carol of "Silent Night" to react to the good news like the shepherds?

*How can we use the carol "Silent Night" to react like Mary?

3. Confidence in a Fearful World

* The angel told the shepherds not to be afraid, just as Jesus preached all throughout his ministry: "Do not be afraid."

-The shepherds felt terrified and overwhelmed that Christmas night in the same way those Jesus ministered to felt afraid.

Resource: Granger, C. Franklin and Judson Edwards, *Sing We Now of Christmas*
(Macon, Georgia: NextSunday Resources, 2015)

-There are parts of this world that make us feel afraid as well.

*Other stories where Jesus said to not be afraid:

-Jairus at the death of his daughter

-Simon Peter at the great catch

-Peter, James, and John at the Mt. of Transfiguration

-Mary Magdalene after resurrection

-The disciples awaiting the impending crucifixion

-The ending of the Sermon on the Mount with the story of the house built on the sand and the house built on the rock

4. Good News in a Bad News World

*The angels brought “good news of great joy for all people” which caused the shepherds to celebrate.

*Much of Jesus’ life and ministry was a celebration of the good news of God rather than something boring or burdensome.

*The world around us is fallen and broken, because of sin. Rather than a political leader like the ancient Jews expected, we needed a savior then and now. Someone who will:

1. Forgive us 2. Show us a new way to live 3. Fill us with hope

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Upcoming Wednesday Night Schedule:

12/8- Ministry Matters Meeting

12/15- Bible Study with Christmas Dinner and Regular Schedule

1/12/22- Resume Wednesday Night Bible Studies and Schedule

Resource: Granger, C. Franklin and Judson Edwards, *Sing We Now of Christmas*
(Macon, Georgia: NextSunday Resources, 2015)