

Advent Week 4

Christ in the Carols: O Come All Ye Faithful

Bible Passage: Luke 2:8-20

What are your favourite carols, and why?

What are your least favourite carols – and why?!

Some carols are obviously closer to the biblical accounts than others. Do you think this matters?

Read Luke 2:8-20

- Can you think of any carols that are based on this passage?
- What do they focus on?
- What do you think is at the heart of this passage from Luke? What is his intended focus?
- What aspects of the birth of Jesus is Luke seeking to emphasise in his account?
- Is there anything here that particularly strikes you today?

This passage is very familiar, so in order to let God speak to you afresh, have someone in the group read the passage through again, while others close their eyes and imagine they are one of the shepherds, or even an angel.

- Discuss what comes out of this.

Now refer to the words of this week's carol on the last page.

- In what ways does 'O come all ye faithful' link in with this passage? (See particularly 2:10; 2:15; 2:12,16-17)
- In what ways does 'O come all ye faithful' link in with other passages from the Bible? (See Hebrews 1:6, John 1:1-9; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34-35. You might be able to think of others!)
- 'King of Angels' is not a phrase to be found in the Bible. In what ways do you think Jesus is King? You can find a detailed description of how the angels relate not only to Jesus, but where they fit into the whole order of creation by reading Hebrews chapter 1.
- Looking at the last verse, why is it so important to celebrate the incarnation every year?
- Given the way in which Christmas is celebrated in our culture, in what ways can we give Jesus glory at this time of year? (See the final verse.)
- When it comes to worship, how do you like to celebrate this season?

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

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

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God
Begotten, not created

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
All glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born that happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

