

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

It has been said that if somehow all of the world's Bibles were lost, and only a book of Charles Wesley's hymns could be had, all of the truths of scripture could still be recreated.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing". Wesley's Christmas masterpiece is one example of his truth-filled and doctrine-laden lyrics. Using only three stanzas, he explores the results of Christ's incarnation and declares the foundations of Christianity. In verse one, Jesus is King. Jesus has come to provide the means that men can make peace with a holy God. Jesus provides the means for holy God and sinful man to be reconciled. Jesus was physically born at a specific time and in a specific place.

Verse two tells us that Christ Jesus is also Lord forever. Not only was He physically born into this world, He was truly born of a virgin. Though fully human, Jesus is also fully God. Further, Jesus lived among us, as one of us, God with us.

Finally, verse three reminds us that Jesus fulfills the ancient prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi and others, which invoke various titles upon Him. He is the "Prince of Peace" and the "Son of Righteousness." He is the "Light of the World." "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." By becoming a man, Jesus emptied Himself of His divine power yet retained His divine nature. He gave us the means to be born again, so that man should no longer feel the sting of death.

What about the resurrection? Not to worry, Wesley devotes an entire song to this one fact: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." We may explore these lyrics during the Easter season.

Until then, have a Merry Christmas. Recognize and understand all that God has provided through His incarnation. "Grace be unto you and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come." (Rev 1:4)

See y'all Sunday
Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader