

**Read:** Numbers 33:1-4; 50-56 *in preparation for gathered worship*

**Sing:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Pray:** “LORD, O LORD, we have sinned like our fathers. We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly. We, like they, quickly forget Your works and proceeded foolishly without awaiting Your counsel. We have craved what we do not need, indeed things disastrous for us, but we have longed after them while neglecting what You have graciously provided for us.

“Lord, we have sinned like our fathers. We have despised Your blessings, even Christ Himself as we have failed to believe You at Your word and not listened to Your voice.

“Save us, O LORD! That we might give You thanks and praise Your holy name. Blessed be the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. And let all the people say, ‘Amen.’ Praise the Lord!” (Ps 106)

## “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Wesley, Charles / Mendelssohn, Felix

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a scarcity of Christmas carols available to the Protestant and Reformed churches. The Puritan influence in Scotland and England had prevented the use of such music for several reasons. The Puritans did not observe Christmas as a holiday, calling it instead a “worldly festival.” Also, their preference in music was restricted largely to the Psalms put into meter. Charles Wesley’s writing of this particular carol contributed to a new development in the history of Protestant church music. This carol, written in 1739, is but one of more than 6,500 that he wrote during his lifetime.

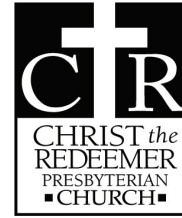
Wesley wrote this carol less than a year after his dramatic conversion at Aldersgate, and is acclaimed by some as one of his finest contributions. One reason for the popularity of the carol is the tune, written by Felix Mendelssohn. In 1840, Mendelssohn had composed music for use in the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of printing. Fifteen years later, in 1855, a musician made certain adaptations to this composition in order to suit the words of Wesley’s carol. Unfortunately by this time neither Wesley nor Mendelssohn were alive to appreciate the joining of words and music into the hymn we treasure today.

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”

3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun 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 no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”

4. 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 place;  
Second Adam from above,  
Reinstate us in Thy love.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”



# PRONE TO WANDER

Sermon Notes from 12/7/08

## Numbers 31:1-20

Rev. Doug Warren

### The Glory Candle

**Leader:** Why do we light the Advent candle?

**Family:** **Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”**

**Leader:** What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

**Family:** **The second lighted candle is a reminder of the Glory that God has promised His people in Christ.**

**Leader:** What was God’s promise of glory to his children?

**Family:** **God’s promise to us who inherit such a great salvation through Christ is to make us co-heirs together with Him. For Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and has delivered us from death to make us sons of glory.**

**Leader:** How has Christ secured this promised glory for His people?

**Family:** **He has delivered us from the fear of death that held us all captive through His entering into death itself on our behalf and fully bearing the judgment of the Father which we deserve. He is our faithful High Priest and the Father’s faithful Son to whom all glory, praise, and honor is due.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people.” <sup>3</sup>So Moses said to the people, “Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites and to carry out the LORD’s vengeance on them. <sup>4</sup>Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel.” <sup>5</sup>So twelve thousand men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel. <sup>6</sup>Moses sent them into battle, a thousand from each tribe, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, who took with him articles from the sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling.

<sup>7</sup>They fought against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man. <sup>8</sup> Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba-- the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword. <sup>9</sup>The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children and took all the Midianite herds, flocks and goods as plunder. <sup>10</sup>They burned all the towns where the Midianites had settled, as well as all their camps. <sup>11</sup>They took all the plunder and spoils, including the people and animals, <sup>12</sup>and brought the captives, spoils and plunder to Moses and Eleazar the priest and the Israelite assembly at their camp on the plains of Moab, by the Jordan across from Jericho.

<sup>13</sup>Moses, Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the community went to meet them outside the camp. <sup>14</sup>Moses was angry with the officers of the army-- the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds-- who returned from the battle. <sup>15</sup>“Have you allowed all the women to live?” he asked them. <sup>16</sup>“They were the ones who followed Balaam’s advice and were the means of turning the Israelites away from the LORD in what happened at Peor, so that a plague struck the LORD’s people. <sup>17</sup>Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, <sup>18</sup>but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man. <sup>19</sup>All of you who have killed anyone or touched anyone who was killed must stay outside the camp seven days. On the third and seventh days you must purify yourselves and your captives. <sup>20</sup>Purify every garment as well as everything made of leather, goat hair or wood.”

# PRONE TO WANDER

Sermon Notes

## I. The Horrors of Holy War

## II. There Are Only Two Options.

## III. Christ Is Utterly Destroying His and Our Enemies

*Please seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as you answer the following:*

How bad is sin really? Why? How does this passage show it?

Why is God so passionate for our purity? How?

How does Christ's work accomplish our purity? How do we live now?

### *Taking Gathered Worship Home*

*Will you continue reading and studying Numbers together?* Each week we will have a set of passages to read to help us work together in reading through this whole book and digging into what it means and how we are to apply it in our lives individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let's wade into the Wilderness together.

**Read:** Numbers 31:1-54; 25:1-18

**Ask yourself or one another:** What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the gospel of Christ empower me (us) to do so? Review the Application questions above.

**Sing:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (words on back)

**Pray:** "Lord God, we have been deceived and led away from worshipping You alone. We have also gladly taken part in what we have known to be wrong. Forgive us and restore us. We cling to Your promises that You will make us joyfully obedient. Make us more so today. Amen."

*Check out our new website [www.ctrPortland.org](http://www.ctrPortland.org)*

Monday, 12/8

**Read:** Numbers 31:1-20; Leviticus 26:21-25

**Meditate on the vengeance of God**

**Ask yourself or one another:** What did the people do right? Where did they fail? Why? What were they instructed to do to rectify it? How impossible does this seem to you? What do you do when it seems that God is making an impossible demand of you or us?

**Pray:** Ask God to make you (us) passionate for His covenant. Praise Him for His holiness and faithfulness.

**Read:** Numbers 31:21-54; Acts 8:9-24

**Ask yourself or one another:** Why do the people need to be purified for contact with the dead when the killing was according to God's command? Does God enjoy killing? Why or why not?

**Sing:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Pray:** "Holy One of Israel, we praise You for You alone are God. Teach us to believe Your Word as faithful and true."

**Read:** Numbers 32:1-15; Romans 15:1-7

**Ask yourself or one another:** What was the request of Reuben and Gad? What was the danger that Moses pointed out? Why did the Lord's anger burn so against Israel?

**Pray:** "Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of concern for our brothers and sisters. Teach us to consider them as more important than ourselves. Restore us to loving care and compassion for others."

**Read:** Numbers 32:16-24;

**Ask yourself or one another:** Who dealt with Moses' concern? What is Moses' caution to them (v. 23)? Do we believe that is true? How is our (dis)belief demonstrated? Why is it important for us to do as we promise? How did Christ keep our vows?

**Sing:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Pray:** Ask God to forgive you (us) for the ways we have not kept our promises. Praise Him for His faithfulness.

**Read:** Numbers 32:25-42; John 14:15-18

**Ask yourself or one another:** Why don't we do what the Lord says for us to do? How does obedience demonstrate love? Why can't it earn love? Why do we always get these backwards?

**Pray:** Ask God to teach us what it means to love Christ who first loved us. Praise Him for the gift of eternal redemption and ask Him to make it evident in our lives through renewed obedience.

Tuesday, 12/9

Wednesday, 12/10

Thursday, 12/11

Friday, 12/12

Message

Application

Sunday, 12/7