

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week One – Day 3

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears wrote this song in the context of the social strife that plagued the country as the Civil War approached. This hymn comes from a Boston publication, *Christian Register*, published on Dec. 29, 1849. The poem/song sheds light on the poet's concerns about the social situation in the U.S. in the mid-19th century. (Discipleship Ministries, umcdiscipleship.org)

Game Idea – It Came Upon A Midnight Clear *Word Search*. <https://pagesofpuzzles.com/free-printables/it-came-upon-a-midnight-clear-word-search.pdf>

Video by kidschurchcentral.com: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-U5XwxD0hQ>

It came upon the midnight
clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the
earth to touch their harps of
gold: "Peace on the earth, good
will to men, from heaven's all-
gracious King." The world in
solemn stillness lay, to hear the
angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old, when with
the ever-circling years shall come
the time foretold, when the new
heave and earth shall own the
Prince of Peace, their King, and
the whole world send back the
song which now the angels sing.

Questions/statements for individual or families to respond to:

- Read Luke 2:13-14
- Can you think of any words that describe *peace*?
- What causes the opposite of peace at home, school, work, or the world?
- What do the following verses tell you about peace? (John 16:33; Psalm 29:11; Romans 5:1)

Digging Deeper

1. This song was written just before the Civil War was to begin. There was very little peace in our nation at the time. Where do you observe little to no peace to day your world?
2. Read Romans 8:6, Colossians 3:15, Galatians 5:22, and Philipians 4:6-7 to determine how you can pursue peace.
3. Do you believe it's possible to experience peace on this side of Heaven?
4. What does the phrase, "*Peace on earth, good will toward men, from Heaven's all-gracious King,*" mean to you personally? (Luke 2:13-14)