



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH, STANZAS 1&2

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

— French Carol; tr. H.F. Henry, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

The angels song - consoling yet jarring:

Comforting to our often troubled lives to hear again of the  
Savior's birth.

Jarring because of who joins the angel choir and of where  
they sing -

The mountains and all creation we are destroying by  
our consumptive living join their song;

Shepherds and those whom we seek to silence  
because of who they are -migrants, refugees,  
asylum seekers - their voices join the choir of angels;

To Bethlehem - today a city seeking to survive in  
the midst of occupation - come and see the one  
whose birth the angels sing.

Oh, angels, your song is so comforting yet troubling!

*The Rev. Mark Hanson  
Founding Director  
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