

**“I Heard the Bells on
Christmas Day”**

Luke 2:13-20

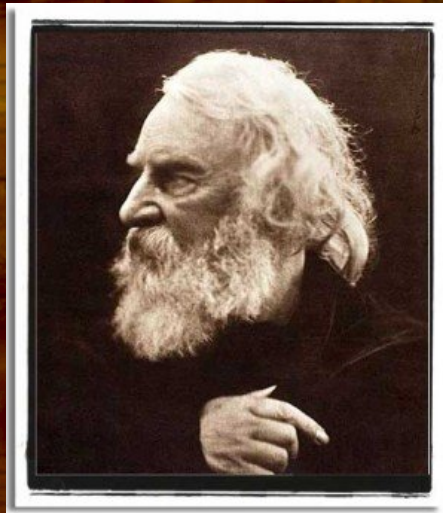
Curt Deming

Melbourne Community Church

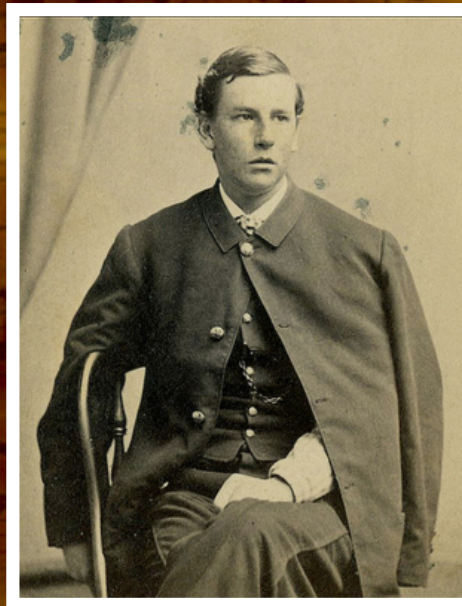
December 22, 2019



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Charles Appleton Longfellow



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

- ❖ Loss brings us to a crossroads.
- ❖ We know that ultimately
“The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail.”



Christmas Songs 2012

- ❖ O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- ❖ We Three Kings
- ❖ Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- ❖ Joy to the World



Christmas Songs 2014

- ❖ O Holy Night
- ❖ What Child Is This?
- ❖ Go Tell It on the Mountain



Christmas Songs in Luke

- ❖ Mary's (Luke 1:46-55)
- ❖ Zechariah's (Luke 1:68-79)
- ❖ Heavenly Host (Luke 2:14)
- ❖ Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)



Christmas Songs 2019

- ❖ O Come All Ye Faithful
- ❖ Mary, Did You Know?
- ❖ Angels We Have Heard on High
- ❖ I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day



O Come, All Ye Faithful

- ❖ Jesus is worthy of our worship.
- ❖ Jesus has invited us to come to him.
- ❖ The Lord has given us the faith we need.



Mary, Did You Know?

- ❖ Like Mary, we can expect the Lord to intervene in our lives.
 - ❖ To save us
 - ❖ To transform us
 - ❖ To equip us



Angels We Have Heard on High

- ❖ “Christ the Lord, the newborn king” - Christian salvation is a story of divine rescue.
- ❖ “Gloria in excelsis Deo” - Glory = weight. Therefore, what we glorify shapes and reveals our character.



“Schoolroom” (aka “Fireside”) poets:

- ❖ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- ❖ John Greenleaf Whittier
- ❖ James Russell Lowell
- ❖ Oliver Wendell Holmes
- ❖ William Cullen Bryant



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

- ❖ Written on December 25, 1863
- ❖ By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- ❖ Music by John Baptiste Calkin in 1872



Verse One

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Verse Two

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Verse Three

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Luke 2:13-14 (KJV)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



Verse Four

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Verse Five

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Verse Six

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”



Jeremiah 12:1

**You are always righteous, LORD,
when I bring a case before you.
Yet I would speak with you about your justice:
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all the faithless live at ease?**



Psalm 142:4

Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.



Psalm 142:5

I cry to you, LORD;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."

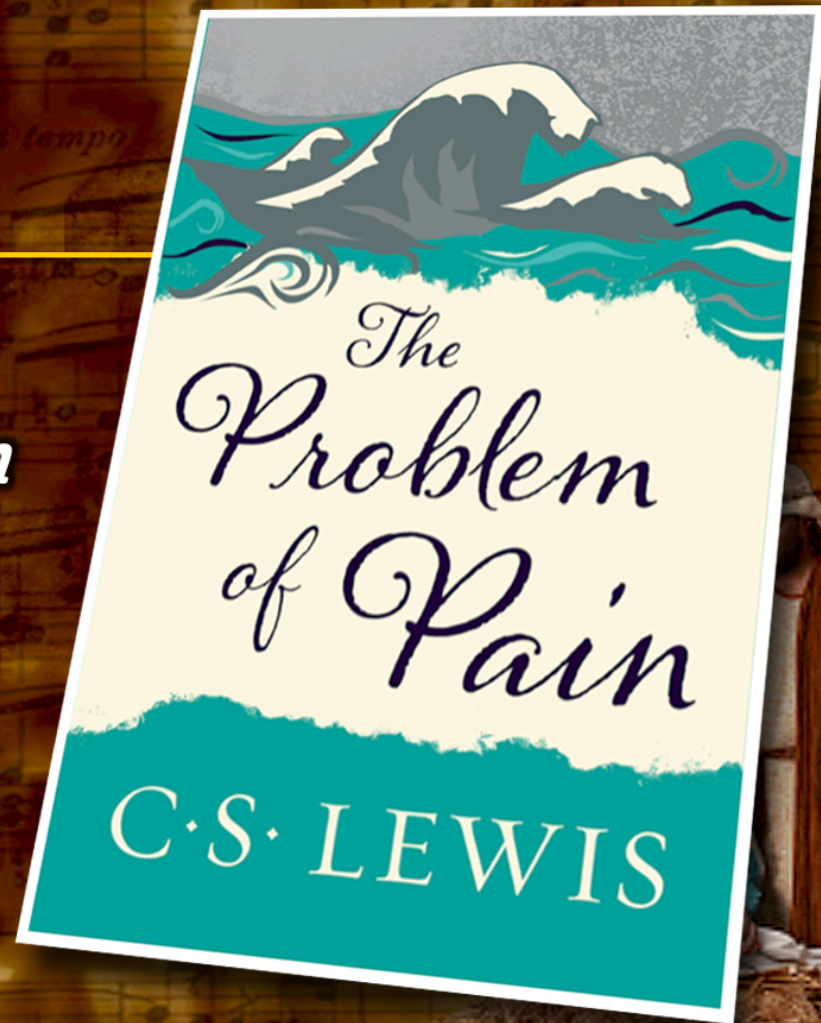


Psalm 37:9

For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.



The Problem of Pain
— C.S. Lewis



C. S. Lewis



C. S. Lewis:

**“Crying is all right in its way while it lasts.
But you have to stop sooner or later,
and then you still have to decide
what to do.”**



C. S. Lewis:

**“Pain insists upon being attended to.
God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks in our consciences, but shouts
in our pains. It is his megaphone
to rouse a deaf world.”**



Verse Seven

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”



2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.



Tim Keller:

“God’s salvation came into the world through suffering, so his saving grace and power can work in our lives more and more as we go through difficulty and sorrow. There’s mercy deep inside our storms.”



Anne Lamott:

“You will lose someone you can’t live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news.”



Anne Lamott:

“They live forever in your broken heart that doesn’t seal back up. And you come through. It’s like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly — that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.”



Amos 5:24

**But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!**



Revelation 22:3

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.



Revelation 22:4-5

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the LORD God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

- ❖ Loss brings us to a crossroads.
- ❖ We know that ultimately
“The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail.”





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

