



## Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

**Text: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)**

**Tune: Thomas Haweis (1732-1820)**

In the season of Advent, our thoughts turn to our coming King, Jesus Christ. We see that the One whose coming was promised at the end of the previous Church Year comes to us now in great humility to bear the sin of the world. His coming is not one of dread but one of great joy, for He comes to undo the damage of sin. This is the joy that courses through the veins of Advent. Though it is a season of penitence preparing us for Christmas, we fast knowing that a great feast awaits!

One hymn that highlights this joy is “Hark the Glad Sound!” This hymn was written by Philip Doddridge. He was born in London on June 26, 1702. Sadly, both of his parents died in 1715 and he was taken in by Samuel Clark, the Pastor of St. Albans of Hertfordshire. Philip’s uncle introduced him to the Dowager



Philip Doddridge

Duchess of Bedford. She felt such pity for the young man that she offered to pay for his education leading to ordination in the Church of England. However, on his mother’s side there had been a history of schisms with the Anglican Church, and Philip ended up entering the Non-conformist seminary in Kibworth. In 1723 he became the pastor of the non-conformist church there. In 1729 Philip became the head of the Castle Hill Meeting in North Hampton. This was a school that existed largely to train men for the ministry of the Non-conformist group, though it did train people for other professions as well. In that school’s history over 200 men from England, Scotland, and Holland were trained there. In 1730 he married Miss Mercy Maris and they had nine children in the course of their married life. 1735

saw Philip earn the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Aberdeen. In 1751 Philip attended the funeral of his old Pastor, the Rev. Samuel Clark, and there contracted a cold which later became tuberculosis. In an attempt to find a more reasonable place to heal, he set sail for Lisbon. Shortly after his arrival there, he died on October 26, 1751.



T. Haweis

The tune for “Hark the Glad Sound!” was written by Thomas Haweis (pronounced “Haws”). Though his original practice was medicine, he later went to Cambridge where he studied theology. His theological studies eventually led to ordination, after which he served as court chaplain to Lady Huntington at Bath. After her death, Haweis took to writing. His most notable works were *A History of the Church*, *A Translation of the New Testament*, and *A Commentary on the Holy Bible*. Though he did write several hymns, their quality was not exceptional, so many have been lost (though *The Lutheran Hymnal* does contain one of his hymns, “O Thou from Whom All Goodness Flows,” #515).

“Hark the Glad Sound!” was written on December 28, 1735 as a seven stanza hymn. He wrote it to be sung after his Christmas sermon on Luke 4:18-19. The version in our hymnal omits the original stanza 2 and 6, which read:

On Him the Spirit, largely poured	His silver trumpets publish loud
Exerts its sacred fire;	The Jubilee of the Lord;
Wisdom and might and zeal and love	Our debts are all remitted now,
His holy breast inspire.	Our heritage restored.

This is an excellent hymn for our Advent preparations. We are encouraged to examine ourselves and prepare our hearts for Jesus’ coming. When we do this, we see that we are lost in sin and death. But the Gospel is that Jesus has come to free the prisoners (st. 2), clear the mind from sin’s cloud (st. 3), and heal the hearts broken by sin’s destruction (st. 4). For this salvation and eventual entrance into the celestial day of heaven (st. 3), we lift our Hosannas to the Prince of Peace. One day He will bring us to Himself, to the mansion He has prepared where the “eternal arches ring” with His beloved Name (st. 5).