The Union Church of Guatemala

Songs of Incarnation #3 - “Go tell it on the mountain”

December 23, 2018

1. The song’s story
   1. Originally a Negro spiritual, it was first published by John Wesley Work Jr. in 1907, in a hymnal in which he compiled many of the time’s spirituals.
   2. It was originally known as the “Christmas Plantation Song” and included some different lyrics than the ones we use today (written by John Wesley Work).
2. Why is this song important?
   1. Christmas, more than an ***event***, is a ***message***
3. ***“Great news of great joy…” - How do we respond?***
   1. *“These are not the words of men, nor can such a proclamation even be conceived by the mind of any human being; for not even the most learned people on earth know anything about this, for these are angelic words shouted down from heaven into this world; it is a message which praise be to God forever, has also been made known to us. It makes no difference whether you are reading of hearing this message today or whether you had heard the message directly from the angel himself.” (Martin Luther - December 26, 1534)*
   2. The shepherds responded - Luke 2:15-20
   3. This message is for all of us
   4. This song reminds us of the message we need to proclaim:
      1. Who we are and what God has done for us in Christ
      2. We proclaim this message to everyone and everywhere
   5. There is nothing more important - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
      1. May this Christmas and every other Christmas be about this…
      2. Our proclamation begins here, with Christmas
         1. This ***actually happened***
         2. This is a ***unique and unrepeatable*** event
         3. This had a purpose...the Cross
         4. The first Advent points to the second and last Advent...***and that is worthwhile sharing and encouraging others with! These are truly good news!***