



## **My Angels**

The angels came to me and spoke gently,  
as if they were speaking to a newborn.

With unreal faith and everlasting hope,  
the angels spoke words of uplifting truth of my purpose.

The angels blinding white wings  
floating with absolute ease  
as they spoke with clarity with nothing held back.  
My angels will never lose me.

Cameron Hendren

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him

Born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye **citizens of Heaven** above!

***Glory to God, glory in the highest:***

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

What's the theological message...?

**The faithful keep coming to Jesus...**

**Because God has come to us!**

**“For nothing will be  
impossible with God.”**

**Angel Gabriel**

**Luke 1:37**

Mary said to the angel,  
“But how? I’ve never slept with a man.”

## **Mary’s Summarizing verse:**

And Mary said,

Yes, I see it all now:

I’m the Lord’s maid, ready to serve.

Let it be with me just as you say.

“Do you expect me to believe this?”

Zechariah

Gabriel is giving us a clue into God's identity. He is giving Mary a clue into God's inner world. Here is his secret:

- A) God is a God of endless possibilities.
- B) Don't ever count God out.
- C) You never know what He might do next.
- D) He can do anything.



Sometimes love goes  
beyond reason,  
rationale and practicality.

# After the Annunciation

“This is the irrational season  
When love blooms bright and wild.  
Had Mary been filled with reason  
There’d have been no room for the child.”

Madeleine L Engle

“Without Death there is  
no urgency to live...it  
gives life meaning.  
Even Christ had to die.”

Cam Hendren

# Jesus' Urgency

Therefore Jesus told them,  
"My time is not yet here;  
for you any time will do. (John 7:6)

Jesus replied,  
"The hour has come for  
the Son of Man to be glorified.

(John 12:23)

# Shepherd Urgency

The shepherds were wrapped up in the 'O Come all ye faithful' right? Even the Angels had a sense of urgency.

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made know to us.” So they went with *haste* and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

# It's Not About You!

Interesting to note that in Mary's song she doesn't make it about her personal hopes and wishes, but more about what God was doing through the child she would bear.

Same is true with Zechariah's praise...he began to praise a mighty savior, not that Elizabeth would birth but Mary was going to have!

Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” Luke 18:27

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

Jesus said to the blind beggar, “Receive your sight, your faith has saved you.”

Luke 18:42

**It's not about human ability  
but of divine power.**

**In other words, it's not about what  
you have done, accomplished,  
achieved, accumulated,  
but what God is doing!**



# ***“Accept”***

- 1) Consent, agree**
- 2) Receive, take, admit,  
or agree to take**

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

**Fulfilling God's Faithfulness**

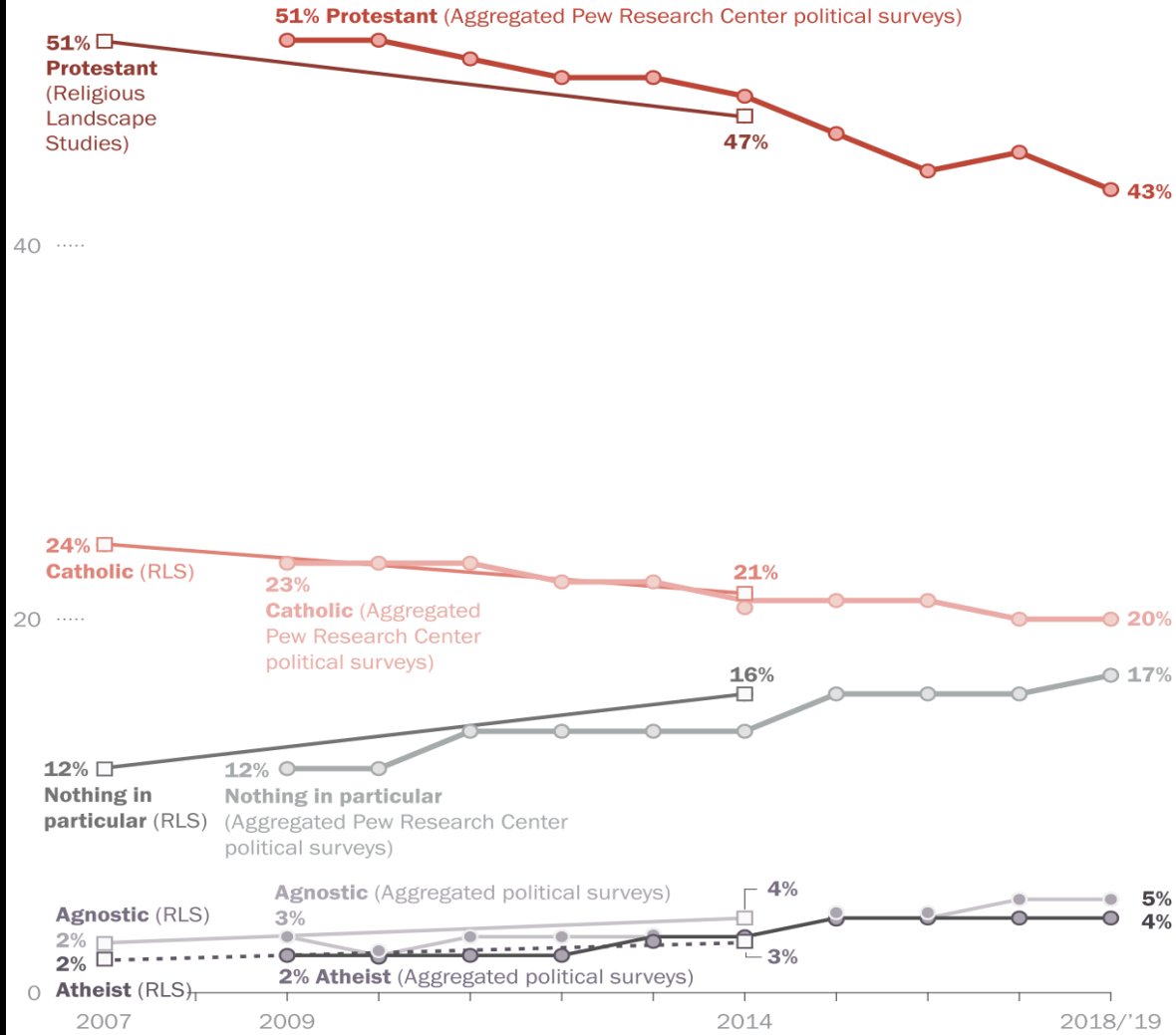
O come all ye Faithful

vs.

O come all ye Faithless.

# Protestants and Catholics shrinking as share of U.S. population; all subsets of 'nones' are growing

% of U.S. adults who identify as ...



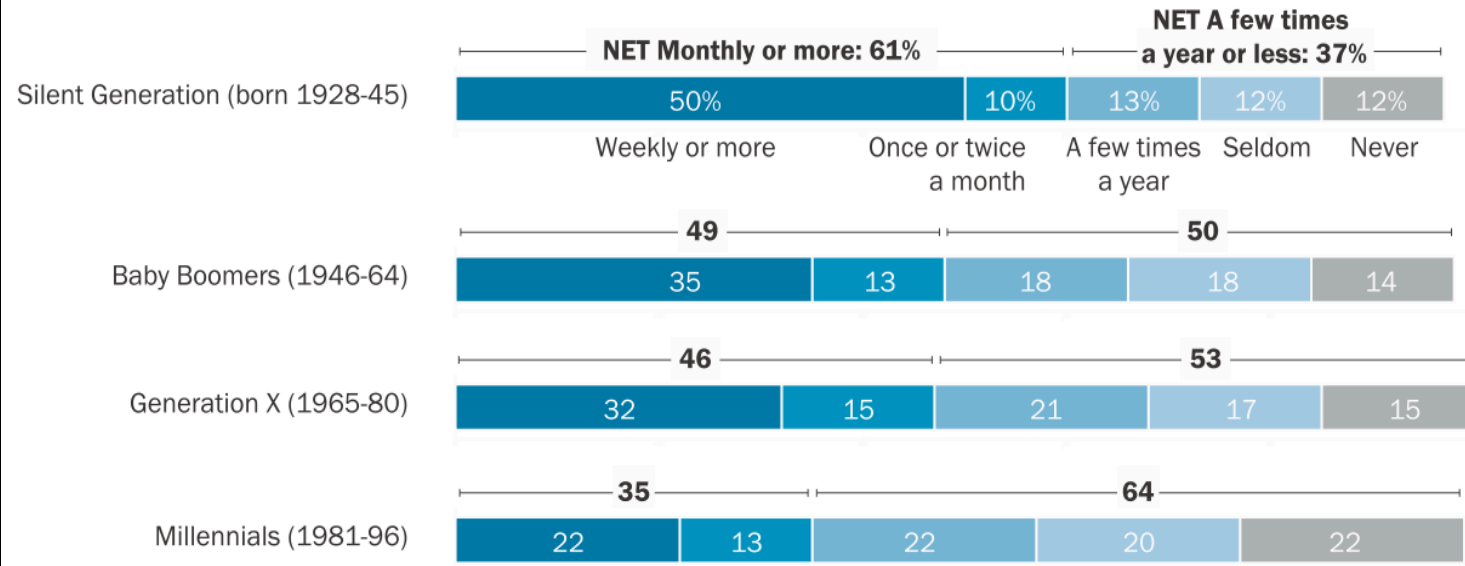
Source: Pew Research Center Religious Landscape Studies (2007 and 2014). Aggregated Pew Research Center political surveys conducted 2009-July 2019 on the telephone.  
 "In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace"

## Large generation gap in American religion

In 2018/2019, % of U.S. adults who identify as ...



In 2018/2019, % of U.S. adults who say they attend religious services ...



Note: Don't know/refused not shown.

Source: Aggregated Pew Research Center political surveys conducted January 2018-July 2019 on the telephone.

"In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace"

**3,023**

**by 2023**



# Thomas' Come all ye faithful experience with Jesus

**“Do you expect me to believe this?”**

“So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I ***will not believe.***”

Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and **believe.**”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” John 20:26-28

**Life is full of imperfection  
but also pregnant  
with possibilities...after all,  
nothing is impossible  
with God.**



# O Come All Ye Faithful

- A barren woman can bear a child – John
- A virgin can bear a Savior – Jesus
- The LORD can enter into human history as a vulnerable, peasant child.
- From a tomb comes resurrection.
- From his Holy Spirit a church can change the world.
- Nothing is impossible with God

“Christmas forces us to deal with all the mess of our humanity in the context of God who has already entered that mess in the glorious birth of Jesus.”

Eugene Peterson