

I Hear the Bells

by Peter Covington

Now that the result seems clear, I hate to bring up the recent U.S. election, but it's worth remembering the healing that still needs to be done in this country. It makes me think of a Christmas carol that was written during the actual American Civil War to reflect those times:

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to all....*

*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 all*

In 2020, we see that hate is strong in many ways, but at this time of hope it is important to remember the truth: peace and truth are some of the great gifts God put inside each of us to make us gifts to ourselves and the world. And the end of the carol is still very true, as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote after learning that his son had been near fatally shot during an attack on Southern troops in Virginia:

*Then rang the bells more loud and deep,
God is not dead, nor does God sleep.
With peace on earth, good will to all.*

