

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Three – Day 11

Joy To The World

“Joy to the world” is perhaps an unlikely popular Christmas hymn. First of all, it is based on a psalm, and, second, it celebrates Christ’s second coming much more than the first. This favorite Christmas hymn is the result of a collaboration of at least three people and draws its initial inspiration not from the Christmas narrative in Luke 2, but from Psalm 98. The first collaborator was the English poet and dissenting clergyman, Isaac Watts (1674-1748). He paraphrased the entire Psalm 98 in two parts, and it first appeared in his famous collection, *The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (1719). “Joy to the world” was taken from the second part of the paraphrase (Psalm 98:4-9), entitled “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” (Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church, umcdiscipleship.org)

Craft Ideas – <https://tablelifeblog.com/joy-to-the-world/>

Video by Vineyard: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqi8aphPtNQ>

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ, while fields
and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Note: This 3rd stanza is almost always left out: No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- Find any hints of Christmas in this song?
- What makes you excited about the celebrating the birth of Jesus?
- Discuss that Jesus didn't remain a baby. He grew up and died for our sins and will one day return to bring us to Heaven with Him.

Digging Deeper

1. Read Psalm 98. What do you understand the joy of the Gospel message to be?
2. How is joy a perfect link between Christ's 1st and 2nd Comings?
3. In what way(s) do you believe the words, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come,” are true today?
4. Reflect on how Hebrews 9:11-28 relates to Joy To The World.