

## 12-20-2023 - Carols of Christmas – Joy to the World

Christmas carols bring us together . . . & usually bring us to C-mas story.  
Final week of our Carols series. This carol is unique.

Written by **Isaac Watts, 1719**. Lived in Southampton, England. 600 hymns  
Wanted church music to be more meaningful. Have emotion.  
Collection/poems based on psalms - “The Palms of David.”

**Psalm 98 became Joy to the World.**

Music –Handel, arr. By **Lowell Mason** – “Antioch” 1836, ‘39

NJ born... banker-Savannah. Spare time - music.

Rejected, folk not classical. Handel Society in Mass, 50,000 copies.

Messiah: “Lift Up Your Head” & “Comfort Ye” (heav’n & nature”)

### – Psalm 98 (vs 4-9)

<sup>4</sup> Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;

<sup>5</sup> make music to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,

<sup>6</sup> with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—  
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.

“& heav’n & nature sing”

While fields & floods,

<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;

Rocks, hills & plains

Repeat the sounding joy

<sup>9</sup> let them sing before the LORD,  
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

He rules the world w/truth  
& truth & grace.

“Joy to the World” wasn’t intended to be a C-mas carol, not even a song.

Collaboration of 2 men who never knew each other. 120 yrs apart

Didn’t become popular till 1911, Elise Stevenson. #5

Song is about the 2d coming. . . there is no 2d coming w/o the 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Joy to the World reminds us: **coming of Jesus changes everything.**

That's what is highlighted in Isaiah's prophecy – **Isaiah 9**

- He was preaching in a time of darkness, evil, hopelessness.
- False prophets . . . sin . . . downward spiral morally.

- o But a time of justice & righteousness is coming! Joyful!

**Is. 9** starts: "there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress."

– 2-7: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and  
upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Isaiah's message is just as relevant today. It's universal, timeless.

Because a child is born – the King of Kings – Change is Happening.

There is no more:

1) **War** ... world turmoil... nation vs nation. A time of peace is coming.

**Burn those boots.** Lay down your weapon.

2) **Rod of oppressor is Removed.** Scepter is Silent. Your King is Peace.

**Yoke/broke** You have **King w/your best interest...**

Yoke burdens the people. Yoke joined people like draft animals

Liberation from oppression... Freedom from domination.

No more Carrying the world on your shoulders. God carries U.

- 3) **Joy, not sadness.** Rejoice like warriors dividing plunder.  
You have won. Overcomer. Conqueror. You are not defeated.
- 4) **Darkness is done.** Light shines!

The prophecy has been fulfilled. Messiah born in Bethlehem.  
Jesus left Nazareth to begin ministry. Went to Capernaum, Galilee.

**Matt. 4:16** - "The people living in darkness have seen a great light"

**John 8:12** - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**John 12:46** – "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should remain in darkness."

**2 Cor. 4:6** NLT – "For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."

Know this: Light always overcomes in darkness.

Love wins. *"And wonders of His Love"*

The Birth of Jesus changed everything.

His first coming was true. Promise fulfilled. We can believe. . . . And look forward to His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming with Joy. *"Let Earth receive Her King."* ...

A King was born in a manger, b/c no room in the Inn.

This King has gone to prepare rooms for us.

Song of the week: **"Joy to the World"** - by Pentatonix.

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the earth.

And God said, "Let there be light."

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And Jesus was with God in the beginning. In Him was life.

His life is the light to every soul.

The light shines in the darkness. Darkness cannot extinguish it.

Christmas celebrates the light that came into this world... for you & me.

Jesus shared His light. Person to Person. Every person matters.