

Series: Joy to the World (Advent 2022)

Text: Isaiah 12:1-6

HI: When the Lord is your song, you sing for joy.

Title: *Christmas Song*

Hook: The banality of Christmas music

Date: 12.4.22

Purpose: To spark a song of joy in salvation among the people of God.

FCF: Like the original readers, we are surrounded by brokenness and often live in fear of judgment. God's grace meets us here with a song of salvation and an offer of freedom in him.

COR: Fear of death and anxiety over world events mark the human condition. The gospel provides the answer to these issues, as the true story of redemption.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Isaiah 11:1-2 link to "that day" via Isaiah 11:10-11

Apologetic: There is real meaning and joy to be had in this season, and it comes from Jesus Christ.

Form: Hourglass

Outline:

I. This song is the story of a person the Lord saves. (1-3)

A. The Lord turns away his wrath and gives comfort. (1)

B. The Lord takes away your fear and brings peace. (2a)

C. Salvation is of the Lord. (3)

II. This song is the anthem of a people the Lord creates. (4-6)

A. Our song puts words to joy.

B. Our lyrics ring with gratitude.

C. Our anthem spreads the news.

The glory of God's provision is proclaimed. (4-5)

B. The joy of God's presence is exclaimed. (6)

Main Idea:

Subject: Song of salvation

Complement: Is sung with joy in the Lord and gratitude for all he has done

Exegetical Idea: The song of salvation is sung with joy in the Lord and gratitude for all he has done.

Theological Idea: Salvation leads to joy in the Lord and produces gratitude for all he has done.

Homiletical Idea: When the Lord is your song, you sing for joy.

Introduction:

The banality of Christmas music

Rockin' around the Christmas tree:

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

At the Christmas party hop

Mistletoe hung where you can see

Every couple tries to stop

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

Let the Christmas spirit ring

Later we'll have some pumpkin pie

And we'll do some caroling

You will get a sentimental feeling when you hear

Voices singing, let's be jolly

Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Rockin' around the Christmas tree

Have a happy holiday

Everyone dancin' merrily

In the new old-fashioned way

Santa Clause is coming to town:

Santa Claus is comin' to town

Santa Claus is comin' to town

Santa Claus is comin' to town

He is making a list

And checking it twice

Gonna find out who's naughty and nice

He sees you when you're sleeping

He knows when you're awake

He knows if you've been bad or good

So be good for goodness sake

Oh, you d better watch out

You better not cry

Better not pout

I'm telling you why

We wish you a merry Christmas
 We wish you a merry Christmas
 We wish you a merry Christmas
 We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year
 Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
 We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year
 Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
 Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
 Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
 And bring it right here
 Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
 We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year
 We won't go until we get some
 We won't go until we get some
 We won't go until we get some
 So bring it right here
 Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
 We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year
 We all like our figgy pudding
 We all like our figgy pudding
 We all like our figgy pudding
 With all its good cheers

"I want a hippopotamus for Xmas" - Gayla Peevey (Clip)

We have a Christmas song that has quite a bit more substance to it today. It is in Isaiah 12.

("In that day" – what day?)

Orient:

Horizons of biblical prophecy: theologians often speak of "horizons" of biblical prophecy, as a way to express how to interpret the words of the prophets.

ILL: You're at cannon beach, looking off into the horizon. You can see haystack rock, right near the shore. But then you look to the right and you can see Tillamook Lighthouse. Finally, you look straight ahead and you can as far as you

can see...off into the distance. Three horizons: OT era, NT era, THE END—new creation.

Already/Not Yet dynamic: It is possible for these prophecies to refer to all three of these horizons. It is possible for these words to land in any one of these places.

You could say, like Dickens, that it was the best of times and the worst of time, except it wasn't the best of times. These were dark days. But as often happens in dark days, songs of salvation spring up. And that is what he have here.

We celebrate Advent (arrival) as we stand between two Advents. The first arrival is one on which we look back 2,000 years. The second is one to which we look forward—we known now how long. It could be today. It could be in a thousand years. Whichever it is, we are on the way to *that* day. And on the way to that day, this is the song we sing.

HOOKS: "That Day"

"That Day" – the song of that day... the anthem of the day of salvation... the soundtrack playing as the people exit slavery on the highway God builds...

READ Isaiah 12:1-6

Isaiah 12:1 You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴ And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

CXT: 11:10, 11: "In that day..." This is the song of that day. And it is personal. But it is not *only* personal, it is also communal. This song has two distinct parts, a personal testimony of an individual God saves, and a public testimony of a people God creates.

(Let's start with the personal.) RE-READ Isaiah 12:1-3

Isaiah 12:1 You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

I. This song is the story of a person the Lord saves. (1-3)

A. The Lord turns away his wrath and gives comfort. (1)

- EXP: God is righteous. His anger is righteous.
- PRV: God has just cause to pour out his wrath on sinners.
- CXT: Time of great sin and rebellion in Israel... captivity wasn't the result of their covenant faithfulness, but their disobedience- yet into that dark

night of sin and rebellion and impending destruction - comes prophecies of joy.

- APP: God has just cause to pour out his wrath on you. He has just cause to pour out his wrath on me. Every time that I have ever sinned, I have broken faith with him.
- ILL: We soft-peddle it, we underestimate it, we sanitize and sterilize our sin. It's a "white lie," it's an "innocent mistake," it's an "unfortunate choice." Unfortunate: fortune/luck: "I got unlucky."
- CXT: This is personal. "Angry with me."
- APP: How common is it to think of the sins of others and have amnesia about our own? I do it. You do it. We look out the window instead of in the mirror. Do you need me to list the sins that you commit? The ones that I commit? If you think about it for just a minute, it's not hard to dust off the idols you worship. When your joy is stolen, when your gratitude is lacking, when you forget who God is, when you presume that you are God and you deserve what belongs to him—your sin is drug into the spotlight.
- EXP: You know what you deserve because of your sin? Wrath from God. You deserve eternal punishment in Hell. This is what you have earned.
- CXT: Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. Isaiah 1:4
- CXT: And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Isaiah 6:5
- CXT: "You will say *in that day*"
- EXP: "That day" – the day of the Lord—the day when the wicked will get judgment, but also where God's people will get salvation.
- EXP: And THAT IS what this song is about. v. 1 is a plea, a prayer, "may you turn away your anger?" The answer is YES. The prophet speaks of comfort.
- ILL: v. 1: Hebrew is a very demonstrative language. Verbal root "let me give thanks/praise" – lifting the hands

(What makes us lift our hands in prayer? How is this wrath turned away?) RE-READ v. 2...

B. The Lord takes away your fear and brings peace. (2a)

- PRV: “Behold!” (hin-nay) that always suggests some degree of wonder or surprise, as if to say at this point: ‘Look, can you believe this?!’ Of all things, God is my salvation—and so I can rest in that.”
- PRV: v. 2: **God is my salvation**. See Ex. 15:2. “He is the source and the initiator of salvation” (49:6, 8; 51:6, 8; 56:1; 62:1).
- EXP: v. 2 is a confession of faith. “I will trust.”
- CXT: “In that day” – In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples-- of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. Isaiah 11:10-11
- EXP: The “root of Jesse” – this is the key – this is *where* the Lord directs his wrath. This is “root of Jesse” is *how* the Lord gathers his people from the nations where they are exiled. This is *why* the prophet can speak of fear being traded for trust, and wrath being exchanged for comfort.
- CXT: Isaiah 11:16 (READ) – a highway out of exile. There are themes and words and images everywhere in these chapters that refer back to the Exodus story. The Lord saves his people from slavery. Verse 2 is identical to the song they sang when the Lord rescued them from the Red Sea and swept away the Egyptian army.
- EXP: 11:16 highway. The Lord provides an image to confirm the certainty of His salvation (19:23; 35:8, 9; 40:3–5; 57:14; 62:10). Just as He led His people out of Egypt, so He will lead them out of exile. (Sproul)
- EXP: “Highway” – artificially built-up road, Persians (a later world power) were known for this, and the Romans perfected it. Not just ‘path’ or ‘way,’ but a precisely built roadway.

(It is all intended to emphasize...)

C. Salvation is of the Lord. (3)

- PRV: “Lord God” – Yah Yahweh – the covenant name of God, but with major emphasis.
- EXP: He *is* my strength, my song, my salvation.
- APP: Total dependence upon God. Not that “he is strong, let me write a song, he saves me.” NO- HE IS these things.
- ILL: v. 3: Calvin on well: “[E]verything necessary for supporting life flows to us from the undeserved goodness of God.”

- EXP: My salvation – he rescues us from sin/death; my song – he is not just the reason to sing, he is the content of the lyrics; when it comes to salvation, there is no other verse to be written—He is it; my strength – he doesn't just save me—he fortifies.
- PRV: RE-READ v. 3:
- CXT: Again, this refers back to the Exodus story. When the people of Israel are saved out of slavery, they end up in the wilderness, with thousands of people who need food and water. And the Lord provides wells in the desert from which they can drink. He does it again and again.
- APP: v. 3: We sing with joy as we draw from our source—the Lord; The joy of the Lord never runs dry. *With joy* you will draw water – the supply of joy is endless, *in the Lord...* and if the Lord is your song, you sing for joy.

[While our world is filled with anxiety, fear, dread of death, those of us who receive the grace of God in faith, who trust in Jesus, we sing for joy. (insert intro fodder).

HI: When the Lord is your song, you sing for joy.

(The 'you' in v. 1 is singular, the other 'you's' are plural... On the individual/plural dynamic... Alec Motyer: "To enter salvation is an individual experience but to enjoy it is communal.") RE-READ Isaiah 12:4-6

⁴ And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

CXT: 11:10, 11: "In that day..." This is the song of that day. And it is personal. But it is not *only* personal, it is also communal. This song has two distinct parts, a personal testimony of an individual God saves, and a public testimony of a people God creates.

II. This song is the anthem of a people the Lord creates. (4-6)

A. Our song puts words to joy.

- EXP: All together we will say, we sing for joy. This is the joy of salvation.
- APP: Singing in our day is just the ultimate act of self-expression, we sing, we dance, these are acts of making ourselves known, showing who we are. That's not what the song of salvation is.
- ILL: "God's people are to declare Yahweh's objective deeds, not their own subjective experiences. They don't dwell on how they feel but on what God has done." Dale Ralph Davis

B. Our lyrics ring with gratitude.

- PRV: Look at the content—"make known his deeds" –
- APP: NOT how we feel, BUT what he has done.
- CXT: (we'll walk through this in a minute, but like this song, it is linked to the "root of Jesse.")
- APP: There is only one way to turn everything into nothing—lack gratitude.

C. Our anthem spreads the news.

- APP: We sing for glory—but the glory we make known is not our own, but the glory of the Lord, the glory of his saving acts.
- EXP: The joy of God's presence is exclaimed. The glory of God's provision is proclaimed.
- EXP: This is our witness.
- PRV: v. 4: "among the peoples" v. 5: "in all the earth."
- EXP: God's people have a story to tell. God's people have a song to sing.
- "Shout"
- ILL: "They can't hear you, Dad." As I shout at the TV when watching football. There is something involuntary that simply erupts within me when the Niners score a TD. It just happens.
- ILL: It could be rooting for your kid in a sport, cheering them on the sideline; or the moment at a concert when you cheer for the super gifted soloist. (don't try too hard here)
- APP: A level of enthusiasm for salvation that matches our enthusiasm for things that aren't *that* important.

HI: When the Lord is your song, you sing for joy.

(In that day... Root of Jesse...) READ Isaiah 11:1-2

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Isa. 11:1-2 ESV)

This is how bad it had gotten among the Israelites: the dynasty of David was reduced to a stump.

ILL: Like a forest that had been completely burned, and all that is left is a single stump sticking out of the ground.

Out of that stump, a shoot would grow—It is verifiable fact of history that Jesus descended from David. The New Testament tells the story.

Declare the gospel: the “turning away” of God’s wrath/anger from our sin was a turning toward his Son, Jesus, on the cross. Jesus said, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” as he hung there dying. The eternal Son of God, absorbed the wrath of God that day. The wrath meant for sinners, though Jesus himself never sinned. This is a DEED of God. This is what he HAS DONE. We sing of this. You know what else he did? He raised Jesus from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus didn’t just defy death, it reversed the curse. So, we can sing, “Oh death where is your sting?!” because Jesus has defanged death for those who are united with him by faith. Jesus ascended into heaven, and from his father’s right hand, he rules his people and builds his church. And Jesus will return again; and on that day, justice will reign down from heaven and this song we sing in the shadowlands now, will ring out forevermore. This is what he has done and what he will do.

Shoot from the stump of Jesse...God sent Jesus to redeem the world. The branch (Jesus) would bring God’s Spirit to humanity. (v. 2)

- EXP: The identity of Jesus is once again laid out in verse 2.
 - Wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord.
- EXP: “Fear of the Lord” does not mean “frightened” or “scared” as if the Lord would harm you, it’s a term that means reverence that leads to obedience.

Conclusion:

HI: When the Lord is your song, you sing for joy.
Let us sing...