

Songs of Christmas: Joy to the World

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Scripture:

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. —Luke 2:8-12, 17-20

Song:

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing*

*Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy*

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

Notes:

Joy is given

- The world is void
- God designed us
- The Spirit will not run out

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! —Galatians 5:22-23*

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! —John 15:11

Joy is unique in Christ

- Savior — deliverer
- Messiah — anointed
- Lord — powerful

Joy is available for all

As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” —Romans 10:11-13

Joy is demonstrated

- Demonstrated in spreading the message and praises
- From an overflow
- You can't offer something that you are running low on

Joy is possible

- Joy is not optional
- God is committed to your joy

Always be joyful. —1 Thessalonians 5:16

This Week:

- Read the book of Philippians every day.
- Find a friend to form accountability against sin.
- Share the joy of Jesus Christ in your life.