



# JOY

## Joy to the World

By: Bri Koch

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come*

*Let Earth receive her King*

*Let every heart prepare Him room*

*And Heaven and nature sing*

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*And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing...*

In the midst of the holiday season, we often find ourselves swept up in this iconic carol many of us know by heart. "Joy to the World" holds a special place in the hearts of many believers around the world. Its timeless lyrics and melody echo the joyous anticipation of Christ's birth and the anticipation of His second coming.

"Joy to the World" was first published in 1719 by a prolific writer by the name of Isaac Watts. Interestingly, this beloved hymn was not initially intended to be a Christmas song. Instead, Watts penned these words into a poem inspired by Psalm 98, celebrating the sovereignty of God and the triumphant reign of the Messiah. The tune was added decades later, and through many adaptations, became the most published Christmas carol in North America.

We know it so well that it may be easy to miss the richness of the words. "Joy to the World" carries a profound message about the anticipation of Christ's *second* coming. While the song is known for celebrating His birth, it also hints at the glorious return of Christ to reign over all creation. The lyrics, "*He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,*" allude to the eventual restoration and redemption of all things through Christ's ultimate victory. So good!

Reflecting on the coming of the King, the birth of baby Jesus ushered ultimate joy into the world. His arrival brought light to darkness, hope to the hopeless, and joy to the desolate. In a humble manger, the embodiment of divine love entered human history, offering the promise of eternal joy.

Similarly, the anticipation of Christ's return brings us an enduring source of hope. Just as His birth brought immeasurable joy, His promised return holds the assurance of everlasting light, a day when sorrow will cease, and His glory will fill the earth.

As we continue celebrating Advent, we rejoice in the arrival of King Jesus. Let's prepare our hearts to celebrate His birth and eagerly anticipate His second coming. Just as His birth brought joy to the world, His return will bring an unimaginable joy that will make every Christmas seem like just a tiny preview of the immense joy to come.

**Psalm 98:4-8**

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.*

*Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;  
let them sing before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.*