

God with Us
Day 20 JOY TO THE WORLD

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shown around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:9-10)

“Joy to the World” maybe the quintessential Christmas – the Advent - song. It celebrates the arrival of Jesus at His birth, but even more His eventual return and reign. The song was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts. The English clergyman borrowed and adapted the tune from Handel’s “Messiah,” and as he wrote, he drew inspiration from Psalm 98: “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. ...Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity” (versus 4, 8-9 KJV).

The season of Advent helps us capture and experience the expectant waiting for the arrival of our Savior. Joy is our eventual response - at Christmas as we celebrate the gift of Jesus represented in His birth and one day in His return as He completes the restorative work He began. One day He will rule the world with truth and grace, and the world will truly reflect the glory of His righteousness and the wonders of His love, the wonders of His love.

What is your favorite Christmas song? Why? At what point on that Bethlehem night do you think joy erupted in the hearts of those shepherds? How can you join and share in a truly global joy this year?