

JOY TO THE WORLD ¹

(words by **Isaac Watts** (1674-1748))

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

Joy to the earth², the Saviour reigns!
Let men³ their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains ⁴
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found. ⁵

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

REFERENCES:

- Richard Watson and Kenneth Trickett (editors), **Companion to Hymns & Psalms**. Peterborough, England: Methodist Publishing House. 1988.
- **BBC Songs of Praise**. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- **Hymns and Psalms**. Peterborough, England: Methodist Publishing House. 2004.

¹ The original hymn was entitled 'The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom' when first published in 1719. The last two lines of each verse were not in the original. The repetitions are adopted for the extended tune.

² In some hymn books, '*the earth*' is altered to '*the world*' in verse 2 line 1.

³ In the hymn book *Hymns and Psalms*, '*Let men*' is altered to '*Let all*' in verse 2 line 2.

⁴ In the hymn book *BBC Songs of Praise*, verse 2 lines 2 and 3 are respectively altered to '*Your sweetest songs employ;*' and '*while fields and streams and hills and plains*'.

⁵ Verse 3 is omitted in some hymn books.

- Gabriel C. S. Chi (editor). **New Songs of Praise**. Hong Kong: Baptist Press. 1976.
- The Cyber Hymnal. **JOY TO THE WORLD**. available at <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/j/o/joyworld.htm>
- Timeless Truths Publications. **Joy to the World**. available at http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Joy_to_the_World/
- Center for Church Music. **Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come**. available at <http://songsandhymns.org/hymns/detail/joy-to-the-world!-the-lord-is-come>

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