

Joy to the World—A Gift is Given

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing!*

Like a child with a new toy, a joyous earth received her King: God's great gift to His creation. But not all of earth's people have come, even yet, to share that joy. Heaven and nature sing, but too few hearts have prepared Him room.

Paul knew this joy, and it rings in his words:

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!" (II Cor. 9:15)

But many Christians, so-called, seem to have no idea how one should receive a gift from God. We are accustomed to the idea of giving and receiving gifts from our loved ones. We even try to out-do each other in expressing our love and thoughtfulness. But a gift from God? How does one receive such a gift? What does it mean? And what does one do about the embarrassing sense that for each gift received, a gift should be given in return?

Ah, there's the rub! Although there is no possible way of giving back any gift equal to that received from God, we hesitate to give that which we have: ourselves!

The words of the old carol, written by Isaac Watts 240 years ago, caught the deeper meaning, as well as the joy of God's gift. His words guide us toward the proper response to a gift from on high: receive the King, prepare Him room, and "let men their songs employ!"

Receive God's blessed Gift with open hearts, that He may rule them, and then give back the praise and love and joy that flow spontaneously from a heart in which He lives. "Repeat the sounding joy"—that all the world may know Him, who "rules the world with truth and grace." From this giving of one's self to God, this spontaneous witness to His gift, there inevitably follows that toward which all God's children are moving: "the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love."

The deepest understanding of Christmas, of all the loving gifts poured out by friends and kin, and of the greatest Gift of all, comes when we have given that ultimate gift that is ours to give: ourselves in His service.

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing!*

Joy to the World!



Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her



King; Let ev'ry heart - pre-prepare Him room; -and



heav'n and na-ture sing; And heav'n and na-ture

Presbyterian CHURCH

A I M W E L L P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

Ridgeway, South Carolina

Joseph D. Beale, Pastor

December 20, 1959

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

- PRELUDE "Christmas Prelude" Mrs. J. D. Beale
- CALL TO WORSHIP "Let All The Earth Keep Silence" Choir
- *HYMN 49 "Angels, From The Realms Of Glory"
- *INVOCATION - LORD'S PRAYER
- ORGAN INTERLUDE (Deacons will seat those who are waiting)
- RESPONSIVE READING SELECTION 43
- *HYMN 60 "Silent Night, Holy Night"
- *APOSTLE'S CREED - GLORIA PATRI
- SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-14
- ORGAN MEDITATION (Let us bow in silent prayer)
- PASTORAL PRAYER
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- OFFERTORY "O Come, O Come Immanuel" Junior Choir
- *DOXOLOGY - PRAYER
- SERMON "The Gift Too Miraculous To Describe"
- PRAYER
- *HYMN 58 "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"
- INVITATION
- BENEDICTION "Hear Our Prayer O Lord" Choir
- POSTLUDE

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JOY GIFT PROGRAM THIS EVENING AT 7:30

The Women of the Church emphacise each year this special need for our aged ministers and their families who served our church before a plan was devised whereby adequate means are provided for retirement. Our Joy Gift will bring much happiness to these who have such limited financial income.

The Youth Fellowship groups will combine to present a Christmas Play entitled "Until The Day Dawn"

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 1959 - AIMWELL AND LONGTOWN MANSE

In 1888, Mr. A.F. Ruff gave a piece of property to the small Aimwell Congregation for the purpose of building a chapel and a manse for Aimwell and Longtown. I'm sure the first manse was a happy place, because the ministers who lived in it kept the flame of life going in these two churches. 67 years of service behind it, the manse was replaced in 1956 with the beautiful new manse we see today.

For three wonderful years I have lived in this manse and I have been very happy. In God's good grace, I brought into this manse one who has transformed it into a beautiful home. Just as love has caused this change and brought joy indescribable, so the Love of God comes at this Christmas time to fill us will happiness and great joy.

Instead of sending cards and letters this year, your pastor wishes to express to each one of you his love and continued devotion. This year he must include also his lovely wife and friend Sung Kyu Kim in the blessing of Peace and Joy to each member of our two congregations.

'May the God of Peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen

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YOUTH FELLOWSHIP TO MEET AT 3:00 P.M.

The Youth Fellowship is asked to meet at 3:00 this afternoon for a dress rehearsal for the play "Until The Day Dawn" All who will be in the play are asked to assemble in the Fellowship Building at 7:00 O'clock sharp!

DECEMBER 23 - CHRISTMAS DROP IN - PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

Rev. and Mrs. Joseph D. Beale will be honored to have the members of Aimwell and Longtown Presbyterian Church visit their home Wednesday evening December 23rd, 8 P. M. to 10 P. M.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."