



December Hymn DQT

1st Grade

"Joy to the World"

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.

Where did "Joy to the World" come from?

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Isaac Watts (1674-1748), author of around 750 songs, is commonly called "The Father of Hymns" due to his popularity as the first English hymn writer. A few of his most well-known songs still sung today include: *Come Ye that Love the Lord*; *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*; *At the Cross*; and the topic of today's post, *Joy to the World*. Isaac Watts was a young man when hymns other than the Psalms were allowed to be sung in the Church of England. This gave way to Watts developing many beloved songs. Watts still based many of his songs on the Psalms, but he was especially interested in writing hymns based on the "Christian experience."

Joy to the World was written in 1719 and based on Psalm 98:

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 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.

If you notice the lyrics of the song, *Joy to the World*, you will see nothing about shepherds, a manger, wise men, angels, or any other character or element that we normally associate with the Christmas story. The reason being that Isaac Watts did not write *Joy to the World* to be a Christmas song. The original theme of this song was the second coming of the Lord. Christmas won't always be a joyful time, but when Jesus comes back, even the rocks will sing!

We have not been able to establish when or why this hymn became associated with Christmas. Certainly we can look at the message in the song and see that it can be applied to Christ's appearance as a babe in Bethlehem. We must prepare room for Him in our hearts and lives. This is a joyous occasion!

As you hear and sing this beloved carol this season, think about the words. Yes, they apply to the Christmas story in that the Lord is come! We should rejoice! But, let the lyrics all point you to the reason Jesus came: to save the world. Be ready because He is coming again! What a glorious day THAT will be when the whole earth celebrates His appearing!

Pray

Lord, thank You for this song that reminds us to celebrate Your coming. Whether it be Your birth or the second coming, we are to rejoice and tell the world about You. I love You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Jesus came many years ago as a baby just like you and me. Even though He was a King, he had a humble beginning. He was born in a lowly stable, yet He came to save the world. He is the greatest gift that has ever been given. Because of our sin and the wrong things we do, we are separated from God. Jesus came to make a way for us to be with God again. Because Christ came, we can be with God again in heaven. Praise the Lord! Glory to God in the Highest!!!

He is the reason for the season.

Color the picture and sing your hymn along with your family as you remember the wonderful Gift of Jesus.



Cut here and bring signed portion to WoW next week for a prize

Child's Name _____ Grade/Age _____

My child has completed his/her DQT for the week of Nov. 16, 2016.

Parent Signature