

The Transforming Power of His Love

By Joe Chesser

Most of the songs you are hearing at this time of the year are songs of joy and happiness. Songs like *Jingle Bells*, *Deck the Halls*, and *Carol of the Bells* are fun, upbeat and help put us in a festive mood. We are shopping, partying, and visiting with family and friends. It truly is *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*.

But what makes it so is not colorful lights and decorations, it's not opening gifts, nor is it eating huge dinners and playing games with family and friends. No, what makes this or any time of the year so wonderful is the transforming love of Jesus. People have always had decorations, gifts and celebrations. Even pagans know how to throw a party and have fun. But what can make it different for us is Jesus.

That's why my favorite song this time of year, and even in July, is *Joy to the World*. The coming of Jesus to the world is the source of the greatest joy we can possibly experience, and *Joy to the World* expresses many of the reasons why His coming is so wonderful.

Verse one. Jesus is King, and we have the privilege of receiving Him if we choose to make room for Him in our hearts. When we do, heaven and nature will sing! They won't be silly songs like *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer* or *Frosty the Snowman*. Silly songs are fun and do have their place, but the joy that Jesus brought to the world is much deeper kind of joy that deserves a deeper kind of song.

Verse two. The Savior reigns! The fields, floods, rocks, hills and plains recognize His rule and are filled with repeated joy. Men should also ... repeatedly!

Verse three. Because of the transforming power of Jesus' love, sin and sorrow no longer have the freedom to grow and infest the world. Jesus has come to bless the world in every place where sin has had its way. No matter where the curse of sin is found, He has come to make His blessings overcome them.

Verse four. Jesus' rule replaces the curse of sin with truth and grace. The glories of His righteousness will be known in all the nations of the earth. The nations of the earth will be enthralled with the wonders of His love. It is so different from anything else the world has experienced.

Joy to the World is fun to sing. But the message of the song is its greatest asset. The next time you sing it be sure to think deeply about the words and how the coming of Jesus has transformed your life. It is a great song to sing any time of the year. Don't let the other things we celebrate crowd out the true meaning of why Jesus brought joy to the world – to transform it with the power of his love



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

December 2, 2018

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: *Figuring Out the Transfiguration*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: Matthew 17:1-13

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: This Tuesday, December 4th. The class will be at the building. Our lesson will be Day 2 of Lesson 7, same as last week. Our class was postponed last Tuesday because of snow.**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** December 5th. Arthur will be teaching an introduction to Ephesians.
- **Holiday Gathering:** December 23rd following worship with singing and games. We will postpone our usual 3rd Sunday potluck until this time.
- **Next Regional Singing-** December 30th here at Valley Cities.
- **Sojourners** here- July 8-18.

Next Potluck: December 23rd at the Holiday Gathering.



- **Introduction to Ephesians, Wednesday evening Bible class @ 6:30!**
- **We are thankful for all the guests that have been coming our way in the last few weeks and look forward to sharing the gospel message with them all.**



PRAYERS...

- **Nicole Baker**, age 34, is on life support at Packer Hospital here in Sayre, following a strep infection that went into pneumonia. She is the niece of Rob Lee, a brother who worships at Southside church of Christ in Rochester. Nicole's family plan to take her off life support on Wednesday, so they are asking for a miracle.
- **Vicki Joice** has had cataract surgery on one eye, which went well, and will be having surgery on the other eye in two weeks.
- **Ronnie Jones** is recovering at home in Jacksonville, FL, following his stroke. His wife said he is doing better but is still not able to speak on the phone. Pray for his speedy recovery.
- **Ted** has had cataract surgery, only needed in one eye. Pray for his future surgery to correct the problem of bleeding behind the eye caused by a stroke in that eye.
- Pray that **Jackie** can find a place to live in the Valley Cities area soon. Darlene has some good leads.
- **Bonnie Davis** from the Endwell church needs prayer for excruciating back pain.
- Please pray for our brother **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning who has been diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer (which is the better kind to have).
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** – lung cancer.
- Pray for Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** who has metastatic breast cancer.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- Pray that our **Bible class attendance improves** and that we can remain **encouraged** throughout the holiday season, when our numbers are typically way down.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.