

Joy to the World

At Christmas, we jubilantly sing the words of the traditional hymn, Joy to the World. The first line is, “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come.” The lyrics are so familiar; we sing them without thinking.

The meaning behind the popular Christmas carol may escape us. The song could have been more exclusive. What if the lyrics said, “Joy to the people of God, your Lord has come?” Was the hymn only written for regular church goers? Not at all. The lyrics broadly say, “joy to the **world.**” The Lord has come to save the world, not just those who are already believers.



This Christmas spread joy to everyone around you. Stop by the neighbor’s house with baked goods, fruit, or even store-bought cookies. It doesn’t matter. What matters is that people of God share their joy with everyone around them, including people who are not yet believers. Greet people at church that you haven’t seen in a while. They may have gotten out of the habit of attending worship, but a warm welcome may encourage them to attend more frequently. Maybe invite a friend or neighbor to the Christmas Eve service. Attending worship on this special night will be meaningful, especially to people who would have otherwise sat at home. You can make Christmas special for others. Send out a few more Christmas cards than usual, and write a short note to connect with them. Extended family and somewhat forgotten friends would love to hear from you. We get so busy with our everyday life and have probably traveled less these past two years, so we have all become more isolated. Our church’s mission is to “connect people to Jesus, for eternity.” Spread God’s love far and wide. With what our nation and world are going through, we need it.

Remember as you sing Joy to the World that Jesus came for everyone. “Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”

The Bible Reminds Us: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).*

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11)

Question: Whom will you invite or welcome on Christmas Eve this year?

Prayer: On Christmas Eve, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, bringing joy, peace, and hope to all the world. We pray we will share that celebration with family, friends, and others, including those who don’t yet have a relationship with Jesus. Jesus came to save the world. Amen.