

WEEK 4: JOY TO THE WORLD

Week Four Introduction

Playlist (listen all week): Joy to the World (Joyful Joyful) by Shane and Shane

This week, we **DELIGHT** in our God who created us, pursued us, lived incarnate, and freely gave us our ultimate redemption and restoration as He reconciled us to Him.

This week, we **DELIGHT** in the God who is the source of the purest JOY. Let us find our fullness and satisfaction in Jesus. It is only when we are consumed with Him that we will experience fullness of Joy. The Joy of the Lord illuminates this world.

This week, we **DELIGHT** in our Trinitarian God. The Father who loves us. The Son who was born a man and brought redemption. The Spirit who dwells inside us. The Trinity rejoices over you with singing. Mirror the Trinity → rejoice over the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

This week, as we **DELIGHT**, burst forth with joy. REJOICE!

Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God

This week, we are filled with and overflow with the **JOY** we have in Christ Jesus.

Week Four Liturgy

**Read at any point throughout week four.*

God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming your promise of peace to the ends of the earth. *Amen.*

Select Prayer from *Revised Common Lectionary*

**December 22 — Joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Let every heart prepare Him room.**

Oh, that our hearts would consistently fixate on the Son, as a sunflower instinctively faces the sun. Oh, that our hearts would only beat for Him, as He is the one who makes our heart beat. Oh, that our hearts would burn for Him, as He is the Fire that refines us like silver. Oh, that our heart would prepare Him room, as He prepares a place for us. As we fix our gaze and as we turn our face to the Giver of Life, we find abundant joy. As we clear out darkness, excess of stuff, trash, worry and busyness from our hearts, He fills our hearts with Joy everlasting. Only in God there is fullness of joy. Take heed, prepare Him room!

Read: Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Optional Engagements

- **Ponder/Journal:** How do you prepare Him room in your heart? What needs to be cleared out in order to make room for more of Jesus? Be undivided in your attention and pursuit. Seek Him. Know Him. Enjoy Him. Delight in Him.
- **Meditate:** Meditate on the lyrics of *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*. As you do, center yourself in joy. Allow your imagination to spark with images around each stanza.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee / God of glory, Lord of love / Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee / Opening to the sun above / Melt the clouds of sin and sadness / Drive the dark of doubt away / Giver of immortal gladness / Fill us with the light of day / All thy works with joy surround Thee / Earth and Heaven reflect thy rays / Stars and angels sing around Thee / Center of unbroken praise / Field and forest, vale and mountain / Flowery medal flashing sea / Chanting bird and flowing fountain / Call us to rejoice in Thee / Mortals, join the happy chorus / Which the morning stars began / Father love is reigning o'er us / Brother love binds man to man / Ever singing, march we onward / Victors in the midst of strife / Joyful music leads us Sunward / In the triumph song of life / Joyful music leads us sunward / In the triumph song of life

- **Family Activity:** Prepare Him room! Discuss what preparing room in our hearts for God means. Then, physically go clean a space in your house together as a symbol of preparing space. Once the room is cleaned, turn on worship music and dance in that space! When we prepare Him room in our hearts, it also gives us more room to dance and worship in fullness of Joy before Him.

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- **Prayer:** Lord, joyfully I adore You. You are God of Glory. You are Lord of Love. May my heart unfold like flowers before You. As your Light constantly shines on me, may the natural inclination of my heart always be turned towards you. May I be open and free to You, knowing I am safe in you. You hold all I need to live, to grow, and to flourish. Let my heart be ever set on You alone. May my whole being open widely and wildly to the Son above.
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - Father God, I make room for you.
 - Jesus Christ, I open my heart to you.
 - Holy Spirit, thank you for taking up space in me.

Playlist: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* by Carrie Underwood / *Joy to the World (Joyful Joyful)* by Phil Wickham

December 23 — Rejoice: feel or show great joy or delight.

Read: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord as His Light has dawned. Rejoice in the Lord as He has increased your joy. Rejoice in the Lord as He has shattered the yoke that burdens you. Rejoice in the Lord as He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Rejoice in the Lord as He is your Wonderful Counselor. Rejoice in the Lord as He is your Mighty God. Rejoice in the Lord as He is your Everlasting Father. Rejoice in the Lord as He is your Prince of Peace.

Read: Isaiah 9:2-7 / Psalm 47:1

Optional Engagements

- **Ponder:** Consider what these names mean 1) to you and 2) to the world: Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace.
- **Action/Family Activity:** Think about and speak out loud ways you have seen the goodness of God. You may choose to do this alone, with a friend, or with family. After each thing is shared, clap your hands! Maybe even give a shout of praise to God. Let your joy increase!
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - Lord, I rejoice in you.
 - Jesus, you are my joy.
- **Meditate:** Slowly focus on each set of words below.

This is the Joy we *behold*:

Behold the King has come / Divinity incarnate / Creator of the world / Breathing our air /
Behold what light has come / And the dark cannot contain it / The Savior of the world / Is
finally here

Behold, the Father's love / Beyond all comprehension / He gave His only Son / To die in
our place / Go and see that empty tomb / He's not there, for He is risen / Every heart
prepare Him room / Jesus Christ, the King of Heaven

This is the Joy we *hold*:

Oh, come, let us adore Him / Come, let us adore Him / For He alone is worthy / Christ
the Lord / We give You all the glory / We praise Your name / Jesus, we praise Your name
forever / Christ the Lord

Playlist: Behold by Phil Wickham / *Rejoice* by Keith & Kristyn Getty, Rend Collective

December 24 — Joy Was Born

Read: Psalm 118:28-29 / Read the Birth of Jesus from Luke 2

JOY TO THE WORLD! For the long awaited for and prophesied about Messiah had come. The presence of the Living God in the physical human-form of Jesus.

JOY TO THE WORLD! because Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6-11)

REJOICE! Because God has pursued and pursued mankind.

REJOICE! Because God pursues you.

REJOICE! Because God hold's dominion.

REJOICE! Because Heaven invaded earth.

RECOICE! Because Immanuel - "God with us."

REJOICE! Because Divinity incarnate.

REJOICE! Because Love has come.

REJOICE! Because Light has dawned.

REJOICE! Because Jesus is Heaven's perfect Lamb and the Great I AM.

REJOICE! Because you have been redeemed and reconciled to God.

REJOICE! Because great is your reward in Heaven.

REJOICE! Because Jesus.

REJOICE! Because of Jesus, you know and possess HOPE, LOVE, PEACE, and JOY.

When our hearts are satisfied in Him, there is fullness of Joy. **JOY TO THE WORLD!** The Lord has come. The Lord is with us.

Optional Engagements

- **Imagine:** Let your God-given imagination go through scenes from the story of Jesus' birth.
- **Imagine:** Imagine yourself as different characters: one of the shepherds that night / one of the Wisemen / Joseph / Mary / an angel – As each character, what are you thinking, feeling, experiencing, seeing, hearing, and touching?

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- **Family Activity:** Act out the birth story of Jesus either with yourselves or by moving pieces from a nativity set. Possible scenes to include: Mary and Joseph traveling for the census / shepherds encountering angels / Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable / Angels and the Wisemen / Wisemen bringing gifts to Jesus
- **Pray:** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - Joy to the world. The Lord has come.

Playlist: *Glory to God* by Maranatha! Music / *Angels* by Phil Wickham / *House of the Lord* by Phil Wickham / *Gratitude* by Brandon Lake