



PRAYER FORCE

The WAR is DECIDED in the HEAVENS

Prayer Focus

Final week of 2021 December 27-January 2

Joy to the World, the Lord has come and is Coming Again!

This will be a special week of prayer as we continue to think about CHRISTmas and prepare to finish 2021 well. As we take time to meet with the Lord in the secret place of His presence, let's continue ask Holy Spirit to reveal the reality of Emmanuel God with us, the Light of the World Who came so that we would not walk in darkness, but have the Light of life. Let's find Him, the Bread of Life, in the Word, having great expectation of encountering Him afresh. Let's wait upon the Lord continually, asking that He would open the eyes of our understanding as wholehearted sons and daughters, watchmen with Him in prayer. (psalm 25). With His JOY that is our strength, and a fruit of the abiding presence of Beloved Holy Spirit in our lives.

This year, the song **Joy to the World** seems particularly important for us to sing and I believe Holy Spirit wants to illuminate our understanding.

You may know that that author of the poem Joy to the World was Presbyterian minister Isaac Watts and he wrote it in England in 1719, based on Psalm 98, clearly with the leading of the Holy Spirit. A century later, in 1836, Lowell Mason, a Boston music teacher and also a minister, put the poem to the beautiful joyful music we know today and published the song "Joy to the World" during the Christmas season, so it immediately became popular as a Christmas carol, and so appropriately! How powerful that every year thousands of people proclaim the joy of Jesus' coming to earth as Savior to redeem men and women and shed His blood to cover every person and nation as far as the curse is found, and to proclaim His second coming. **Joy to the World** remains most published Christmas song in America to this day, and it is a powerful declaration to which we say yes and amen!

Though we sing this song about the glorious first coming of Jesus the Savior of the world, Watts originally wrote it as a hymn about His second coming from Psalm 98 and 96! Can we sing this hymn together this week, rejoicing in the reality of His soon return, reflecting on Psalm 98 and asking Him to teach us to pray for our families, for His glorious Church, for Israel, for California, for our nation, and for the nations. Can we speak it and sing it as a declaration and prayer of the Lord's soon coming.

Let's pray these verses as a declarations of repentance and worship , and sing them as a prayer for this moment. Add declarations and verses as the Holy Spirit leads you.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come, Let earth receive her King...Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing!

(Psalm 98:4-6 "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout joyfully before the King, the Lord.**"

Ephesians 3:17 so **that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love....,)

Psalm 96:11-12 "**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice**; Let the sea roar, and all it contains; Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy."

Psalm 19:1 "**The heavens are telling of the glory of God**; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. ")

*Lord, we pray that You would draw Your people to make room for Your Lordship in their hearts this week.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy!

(Psalm 96:2 "**Sing to the Lord**, bless His name; **Proclaim good tidings of His salvation** from day to day."

Psalm 98:7-8 "Let the **sea** roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Let the **rivers** clap their hands, let the **mountains** sing together for joy")

*Lord we pray that California would know You as Savior. We proclaim You are Lord over California.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make His blessings flow, As far as the curse is found!

(Romans 5:20 "The Law came in so that **the transgression would increase**; but **where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,**")

*Lord, we pray for a statewide repentance over California as far as the curse is found, Repentance to salvation for those who do not know You, and deep repentance and reconciliation in Your Church.

*He rules the world with truth and **grace**. And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love*

(Speaking of Jesus in John 1:14, 17 “**And the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth...** For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**”

Psalms 96:13 “Before the Lord, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the nations in with His Truth.”

Psalms 17:7 (NIV) “**Show me the wonders of your great love**, You who save by Your right hand those who take refuge in You from their enemies.”

We declare Your Lordship over California, over the Church of California, over every county, and we pray Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven in California as we look for Your return as the bride who has made herself ready.

We rejoice and delight in the wonder of Your Great Love and we worship and adore You, with JOY, our Emmanuel, our Beloved, our Messiah! Thank You for Your presence and blessing flowing as far as the curse is found!

With all my love, arm in arm praying,

Amy Stoehr
Prayer Force Core Team

[Revelation 19:1 - Maverick City Music](#)

