

A Service for the Beginning of the Year



Hymn Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Confession

Eternal Lord God,
we give you thanks for bringing us through the changes of time
to the beginning of another year.
Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past,
and help us to spend the rest of our days
to your honour and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their saviour ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hymn

1-It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

2-Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3- Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled

Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

4-And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

5-For lo!, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in

him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reflection

Hymn

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

Prayers

We pray for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.

In a world of change and hope,
of fear and adventure,
faithful God

glorify your name.

In human rebellion and obedience,
in our seeking and our finding,
faithful God

glorify your name.

In the common life of our society,
in prosperity and need,
faithful God

glorify your name.

As your Church proclaims your goodness
in words and action,
faithful God

glorify your name.

Among our friends
and in our homes,

faithful God

glorify your name.

In our times of joy,
in our days of sorrow,

faithful God

glorify your name.

In our strengths and triumphs,
in our weakness and at our death,

faithful God

glorify your name.

In your saints in glory
and on the day of Christ's coming,

faithful God

glorify your name.

Hymn- Lord for the Years

1-Lord, For the Years Your Love Has Kept And Guided,
Urged And Inspired Us, Cheered Us On Our Way,
Sought Us And Saved Us, Pardoned And Provided:
Lord Of The Years, We Bring Our Thanks Today.

2-Lord, For That Word, The Word Of Life Which Fires Us,
Speaks To Our Hearts And Sets Our Souls Ablaze,
Teaches And Trains, Rebukes Us And Inspires Us:
Lord Of The Word, Receive Your People's Praise.

3-Lord, For Our Land In This Our Generation,
Spirits Oppressed By Pleasure, Wealth And Care:
For Young And Old, For Commonwealth And Nation,
Lord Of Our Land, Be Pleased To Hear Our Prayer.

4-Lord, For Our World When We Disown And Doubt Him,
Loveless In Strength, And Comfortless In Pain,

Hungry And Helpless, Lost Indeed Without Him:
Lord Of The World, We Pray That Christ May Reign.

5-Lord, For Ourselves; In Living Power Remake Us
Self On The Cross And Christ Upon The Throne,
Past Put Behind Us, For The Future Take Us:
Lord Of Our Lives, To Live For Christ Alone.

Renewal Payer

Eternal God,
in your faithful and enduring love
you call us to
share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear and accept your commands;
in love we seek to do your perfect will;
With joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.
I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.

Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

A thousand years in God's sight are like a single day.

Like an evening that has already gone.

Christ is the first and the last,

the beginning and the end.

Jesus stands at the door and knocks.

Lord Jesus, enter our homes and our lives.

You hold the key to God's way of justice.

Open to us your kingdom of peace.

To a troubled world,

peace from Christ.

To a searching world,

love from Christ.

To a waiting world,

hope from Christ.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Blessing

Happy New Year