

## Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

### I. Joy to The World

#### A. The Story Behind the Music

- the most published and second-most recorded Christmas carol in US History.
- originally written in 1719 by Isaac Watts
- Watts' goal was to create Christ-centered hymns that could be easily understood and passionately sung.
- Watts wrote over 750 hymns, bringing more modern, expressive worship in the Church.

#### B. The Scripture Behind the Music

- “Joy to The World” is Watts' worshipful retelling of Psalm 98.
- Psalm 98 is a call for God's people to Worship.

### Psalm 98 and Joy to the World:

**1 Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.**

**2 The Lord has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the  
nations.**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King*

**3 He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.**

*Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing*

**4 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
5 make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,**

**6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram's  
horn— shout for joy before the Lord, the  
King.**

*Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ*

**7 Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.**

**8 Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;**

*While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy*

**9 let them sing before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

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

## **II. Every Heart Prepare Him Room: Our Lives through Worship**

"JOY TO THE WORLD" IS AN INVITATION  
TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP

### **A. When we lose sight of the meaning, focus, and way of our worship, it becomes...**

1. Defined by our circumstance
2. Driven by our emotions
3. Determined by our environment

### **B. How can we allow our hearts to Prepare Him Room through Worship?**

#### **1. We Remember the meaning of our Worship (1 Pet 2:9)**

-When we worship, we are saying that God has worth, that He is worthy. Worship means to declare worth, to attribute worth. So, when we speak, declare, or sing, about how good and powerful and worthy God is – we are worshipping.

WORSHIP IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE THE WORTHINESS OF GOD

#### **2. We Recognize the focus of our Worship (Psalm 98:1-2)**

- at the heart of worship is Jesus
- He is the object of our worship
- He is the focus. He is the point. ...Not us.

WORSHIP IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RULE AND REIGN  
OVER EVERY SITUATION AND CIRCUMSTANCE IN OUR LIFE

#### **3. We Recall the way of our Worship (John 4:19-24; Romans 12:1)**

- Worship has less to do with our surrounds and environment, and more to do with our posture and honest submission to Christ.

WORSHIP IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER OUR HEARTS AND LIVES  
IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH AS LIVING SACRIFICES TO GOD

### **LIFEgroup questions:**

1. Psalm 98:1-3 invites us to sing a new song to the Lord. What "same old song" have you been singing, and what would your "new song" be that is defined by the truth of God's worthiness rather than your emotions?
2. Psalm 98:4-6 calls us to shout for joy before our Lord and King. How can we together practice celebrating Christ's rule and reign over every situation and circumstance in our lives?
3. Psalm 98:7-9 reminds us that all of creation and every heart and life is under Christ. What are 3 practical ways we will participate in offering ourselves as living sacrifices to him this week?