

LET Heaven & Nature Sing



MESSAGE: Joy to the World

SPEAKER: Jim Johnson | **DATE:** December 15 & 16

Joy to the World is a reflection on Psalm 98

*O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.
... Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. (Psalm 98:1,4 KJV)*

The Reasons for Christmas Joy

Jesus is God with us (Matthew 1:23 NLT)

The “Above-us-God” is now the “With-us-God”

The “Against-us-God” is now the “For-us-God”

The “Outside-us-God is now the “In-us-God” (Galatians 2:20 NIV)

The “With-us-God” is a “Polite-God”

Jesus is in control

**When we say Jesus is in control, it does not mean that he is controlling everything, but that he has everything under control
(1 John 5:19; Romans 8:28 NLT)**

“Nothing irredeemable has happened or can happen to us on our way to our destiny in God’s full world.”—Dallas Willard

Jesus reverses the curse

The blessing of God is the extension of his favor to a person and his commitment to work for their well-being and fulfillment

**The curse is the aggregate negative impact of every human sin and scheme of the evil one throughout history
(Genesis 3:16-18 NIV)**

The curse is reversed in two ways:

The curse is reversed by the work of the Holy Spirit within believers (Acts 2:17-18 NLT)

**The curse is reversed by the creation of a new community of people who are being freed from its power
(Ephesians 2:15; Galatians 3:28 NLT)**

In Jesus' new community, all racial, ethnic, economic class, and gender barriers are being broken down. Everyone has access to and full participation in the work and purposes of God!

Jesus rules with truth and grace

Jesus reflects the true nature of God's character (John 1:17-18 ESV)

Jesus is the wonder-full demonstration of God's love (John 1:14 ESV)

Truth and grace have the power to prove!