



CHRIST'S CHURCH
OF THE CANYON

Mid-Week Devotion
December 13, 2020

“Joyful, joyful we adore thee...”

There's a Christmas song that if you go to your Pandora list it's probably titled under *really old Christmas songs*. Aside from its age it denotes some amazing lyrics that can be incredibly helpful in the midst of all that our country is enduring.

The name Henry Van Dyke probably doesn't mean anything to you but he was the man that penned the poem that started the song. While staying at a friend's home in 1907 he was so inspired by the surroundings of the area, the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts that he decided to write a poem based on what he saw and felt. He was also a Pastor and in the days in which he lived lots of music was produced by people in ministry. Here is what He said about his poem that ended up being a hymn that is sung at Christmas time:

These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.

This hymn is generally considered by hymnologists to be one of the most joyous expressions of hymn lyrics in the English language. It is also used as a Christian song for children.

Here's the first verse of his song:

***Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Op'ning 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***

God's Word is filled with encouragements for followers of Christ to, “*sing for joy*”, Psalm 132:9. Also, in times like we now find ourselves those who mourn seem to outnumber the joyful. God understands. He proclaims in Jeremiah 31: 13b, “***...For I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and give them joy for their sorrow***”.



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As we reach out to those who mourn it is incumbent upon us as followers of Christ to sensitively bring some joy their way especially this time of year.

Pastor Wayne

Prayers

Please pray for the families of Tanya Bartlett as they mourn the loss of their wife, daughter, aunt, sister-in-law, friend, and follower of Jesus. Tanya succumbed to a short illness with her husband Tim at her side. Tanya and Tim are personal friends of our church family at Christ's Church of the Canyon in Wrightwood where both previously served. She will be greatly missed.