

Joy to the World, the LORD is Come

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.—Psalm 98:4

A favorite Christmas carol begins, “*Joy to the world, the LORD is come,*” followed with “*Let every heart prepare Him room.*” Isaac Watts understood the connection between receiving the joy of Christ’s birth and the responsibility to make room in our lives for the Savior to reign. As we think of our duty to prepare a place in our lives for the Savior it gives more meaning to the joy of the Christmas story.

Mary rejoiced when the angel announced she would bear the Savior. Luke 1:47 records her words, “*My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*” She had prepared her life in such a way that she was able to receive the blessing of the baby Jesus. She rejoiced.

The angels rejoiced in the sky over Bethlehem. When the wise men had diligently searched for the Christ child, they “*saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*” They had prepared to see Jesus, they came with precious gifts. They were so excited that their joy was exceedingly great.

The joy that was experienced at Christ’s birth was in anticipation of the great joy that came at the resurrection. The women rejoiced as they raced from the empty tomb. Peter tells us to “*rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy*” (I Peter 4:13).