

Joy to the World

Perhaps you have heard that the popular Christmas carol, “Joy to the World,” was not written to celebrate Christmas at all. Isaac Watts wrote it in 1719, intending it to be a song welcoming the second coming—not the first coming—of Jesus. It is thought that Watts received his inspiration from Psalm 98, and verses 4–9 seem to confirm that allegation. But the song fit so well at Christmas that Watts’ intention has been disregarded for 300 years.

Watts began to write songs when he complained to his father about the somber music of the day. His father told him to write something himself, so he wrote “Joy to the World” as well as 600 other songs, though the musical arrangement for “Joy to the World” that we know so well was composed 120 years after Watts wrote the words.

The psalmist wrote: *“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. . . . Make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. Let the sea roar . . . the world, and they that dwell therein . . . let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.”*

Thus was Isaac Watts inspired to write:

“Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing.

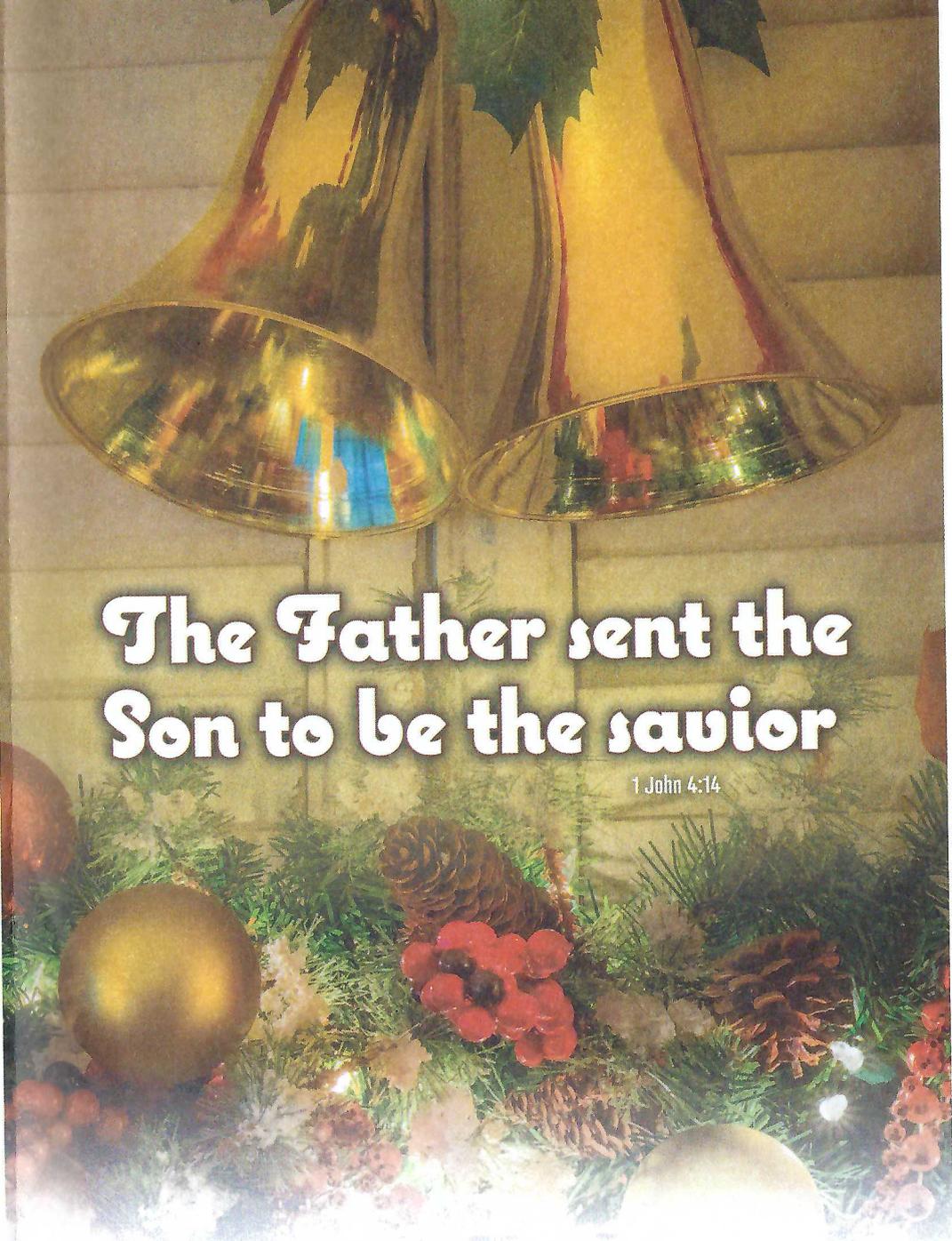
“Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy.

“He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.”

Let us, too, rejoice in the birth of our Savior—Immanuel—God with us!

K.E. Horsley

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The Father sent the Son to be the savior

1 John 4:14

Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

December 15, 2024

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Advent Reading

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #277 Hark the Herald

Welcome and Announcements

Michelle Miller

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn # 279 Angels We Have Heard on High

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

The Colors of Christmas

Sounds of Hope

Pastor Don Mauldin
352-262-5349

Covenant News

Our ministry for December is Helping Hands Clinic. Helping Hands is a group of volunteer health professionals who have provided free healthcare to the poor and/or homeless for over 30 years. The clinic is staffed by social workers, registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, physicians, and community service volunteers.

Since there are 5 Sundays in December, we will also end the year collecting for Pine Grove and Newberry High School.

Save the Date
Christmas Eve service 5:00 pm

shine bright like a Christmas light!

