

Our theme for today: A song of joy.

In the big picture of things, Christmas is, we might think, a season of joy – it's a happy time, a time of cheer and delight, a time of wonderful memory, and for many people that's true. However, that's not the case for everyone; the season is a struggle, and it's filled with tension, even regrets, or, in some cases, a sense of bitterness. For some it's really hard to watch the world rejoice.

With that understanding, we might ask, "*what hope is there to be found that might recover joy; indeed, is there any hope that might bring joy?*" In these next days of devotion, I hope that a song found in the Bible will help anyone facing struggles to recover joy; that it would bring joy. At the same time, I also hope for those folks who are not struggling, for those folks who are in a happy place, that these devotions will either add to your joy, or perhaps might even bring you to a new joy – a joy inspired by the Spirit.

So, what is that song, and where is it found? Well, it is Mary's Song, and it is found in Luke 1:46-55. As you contemplate this song, I believe you'll find it to be a beautiful song; it's profound, and I have this inkling that her song is actually inspired by the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that conceived the child within her. This song is filled with stirrings that will help (in some way) to recover our joy. This song, I believe, will help us contemplate the real source of our joy this season. For today's devotion, let's just read the words of Luke and take in this song. I hope a flicker, or more, of joy will come.

Scripture

*"⁴⁶ My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,*

*in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*

Prayer and Song

Take time to pray and sing praises to Him. Here is one we've provided.

How Great Our Joy

*While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings bro't an angel bright.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*There shall the Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*This Gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*