JOY TO THE WORLD!

Hymn Devotion – December 25

Scripture: Psalm 98:1-4

Luke 2:10

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, 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, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.  No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.  He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.  Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  Something to note here is the use of world and earth – according to the dictionary are quite interchangeable – both refer to human race and to planet, earth and soil – which are spoken of here.  We can have Joy in this world if we have Jesus in our hearts and nothing to fear in judgment.   1. Why is there joy to the world? 2. What are the two things that are to be let? 3. Who are singing?      1. Verse 2: Why is there joy to earth? 2. What is employed? 3. What repeats the sounding joy? 4. Verse 3: What are no more allowed to grow? 5. What must not infest the ground? 6. What has He came to make happen? 7. How far? 8. Verse 4: How does He rule? 9. What are the nations made to prove? 10. What are the wonders of? | |  |   AWAY IN A MANGER  Hymn Devotion – December 26  Scripture: Isaiah 53:1-3  Luke 2:7  Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me, I pray; Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.  Stanzas 1 & 2, Unknown  Stanza 3, John Thomas McFarland  (1851-1913)  The vision of the baby laying in a manger, the stars shining bright and quietly on this sweet baby, the cattle are milling around and the baby awakes but does not cry – we declare that we love the Lord Jesus and want Him to look down from the sky – heaven and to stay close by our cradle, our bed until morning is nigh.  Then we want Him to stay by close by us forever, to love us and bless all the dear children in His tender care – all of His children – Christians – in His tender care and make us fit for heaven and then to go and live with Him there!   1. Where did the little Lord Jesus lay His sweet head? 2. What looked down on Him? 3. How is Jesus described? 4. What was He doing? 5. Verse 2: Who are lowing? 6. What happens? 7. What does not happen? 8. What is our declaration? 9. Where is Jesus? 10. Where do we want Him to stay? 11. Until when? 12. Verse 3: Where are we asking Him to stay today? 13. What is our prayer? 14. Who are we asking Him to bless? 15. What do we want to be made “fit” for? 16. What do we want to do there? |  |

WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL?

Hymn Devotion – December 27

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20-21

Revelation 7:14

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | Who is He in yonder stall At whose feet the shepherds fall? Who is He in deep distress, Fasting in the wilderness?  *Refrain*  *’Tis the Lord! O wondrous story! ’Tis the Lord! the King of glory! At His feet we humbly fall, Crown Him! crown Him, Lord of all!*  Who is He the people bless For His words of gentleness? Who is He to whom they bring All the sick and sorrowing?  *Refrain*  Who is He that stands and weeps At the grave where Lazarus sleeps? Who is He the gathering throng Greet with loud triumphant song?  *Refrain*  Lo! at midnight, who is He Prays in dark Gethsemane? Who is He on yonder tree Dies in grief and agony?  *Refrain*  Who is He that from the grave Comes to heal and help and save? Who is He that from His throne Rules through all the world alone?  *Refrain*  Benjamin Russell Hanby (1833-1867)  This hymn is different – each verse has two questions about who is the baby etc. and the answer to all of the questions is the chorus – for the study section write the questions for each verse:  Verse one done as a sample:  Who is He?   1. In the stall 2. Shepherds fall at His feet 3. In deep distress 4. Fasting in the wilderness   Verse 2: Who is He?  Verse 3: Who is He?  Verse 4: Who is He?  Verse 5: Who is He?  The Chorus:   1. Who is He? 2. What kind of story? 3. What kind of King? 4. How do we fall? 5. What is He crowned? | |  | |  |