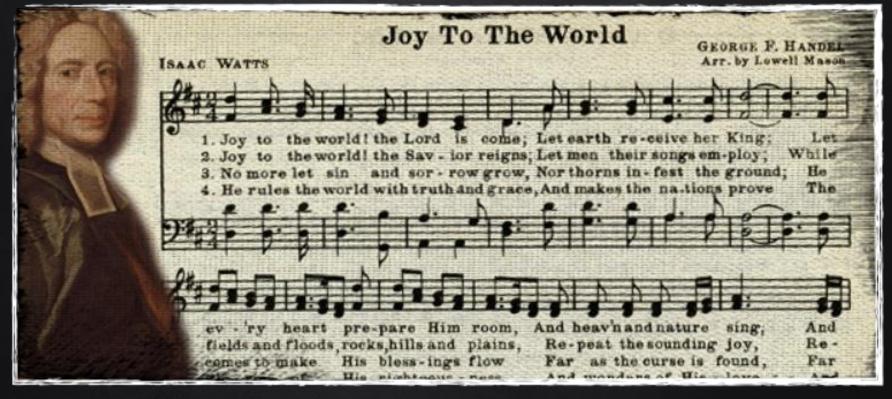




"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"



"God Keep You Strong, Gentle Folk"



"Joy to the World"
Written by Isaac Watts in 1719

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)

What line in this carol do you find most striking? Why?

Is this Advent song about Jesus' first coming or his second?

Psalm 98:1-3

1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. 2 The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our

Psalm 98:4-6

4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Break forth into joyous song and sing praises! 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Psalm 98, Part 1 "Praise for the Gospel"

To our Almighty Maker, God, New honors be addressed; His salvation shines abroad, And makes the nations blessed.

Psalm 98 - Part 1 "Praise for the Gospel"

He spoke the word to Abraham first;
His truth fulfills the grace;
The Gentiles make his name their trust,
And learn his righteousness.

Psalm 98 - Part 1 "Praise for the Gospel"

Let the whole earth his love proclaim With all her different tongues, And spread the honors of his name In melody and songs.

Psalm 98:7-9

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! 8 Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together, 9 before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98 - Part 2 "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing...

"...Say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you." (Luke 10:9)

Romans 8:19-21

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:22-24

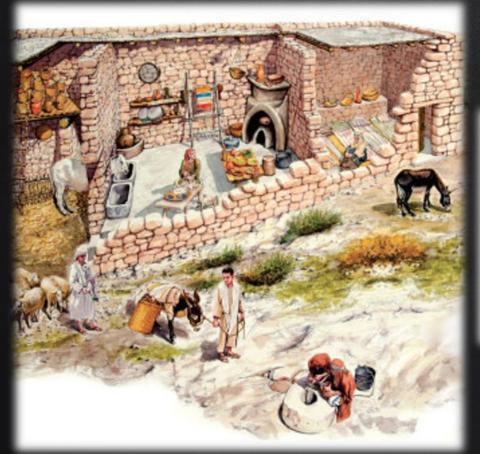
22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved...

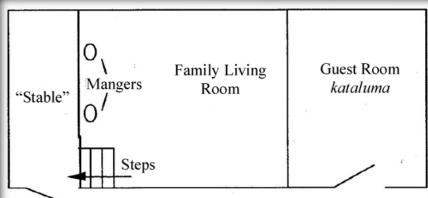
How do you PREPARE HIM

ROMM

in your heart?

"And [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room." (Luke 2:7)





Typical village home in Palestine with attached guest room

"Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room"

 MAKE SPACE to welcome Jesus into the very center of your life

Luke 10:1, 5-6, 8-9

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go... 5 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you... 8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Luke 10:10-12

10 "But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town."

"Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room"

- MAKE SPACE to welcome Jesus into the very center of your life
- Be OPEN TO RECEIVE Jesus' peace, people, healing, life-altering news, & presence

Psalm 2:1-3 (NLT)

1 Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? 2 The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. 3 "Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God."

Psalm 2:4-6 (NLT)

4 But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. 6 For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain."

Psalm 2:7-9 (NLT)

7 The king proclaims the LORD's decree: "The LORD said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your Father. 8 Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession. 9 You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots."

Psalm 2:10-12 (NLT)

10 Now then, you kings, act wisely! Be warned, you rulers of the earth! 11 Serve the LORD with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him

"Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room"

- MAKE SPACE to welcome Jesus into the very center of your life
- Be OPEN TO RECEIVE Jesus' peace, people, healing, life-altering news, & presence
- TRUST & WILLINGLY SUBMIT to his authority

How does joining in with the praise of creation change the worshipper?

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