

**Largs Church of the Nazarene**  
**3 January 2021**

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come!**

Isaac Watts

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 Saviour 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 sin 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.

**O come, all ye faithful**

(Attributed to) John Francis Wade

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the king of angels.

Refrain: O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God,  
All glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing. [Refrain]



**Philippians 2 (NRSV)**

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love (*agape*), being in full accord and

of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit (*kenodoxia*), but in humility regard others (*allos*) as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others (*heteros*). 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
7 but emptied (*ekenosen*) himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

9 **Therefore** God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### Keep the X in X-mas (Philippians 2)

- The “kenosis hymn”
    - *kenosis*: emptying
    - *ekenosen*: to empty
    - *kenos*: empty
    - Verse 9: therefore. . .
    - Of one mind, having the same love (*agape*)
    - Verses 3 and 4: “others”
      - *allos*: another of the same kind
      - *heteros*: another of a different kind
      - *kenodoxia*: conceit; literally “empty glory”
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- The kenosis hymn: a Christmas story
    - Like John 1
  - “Christmas” and “X-mas”
    - Keep the X in X-mas?
    - The “X” is the problem
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- X is an abbreviation
    - X’nty; chi-rho; and iota-chi (IX)
    - *Icthus*: fish
    - The Icebox “IX”
    - We READ “X-mas,” but we SAY “Christmas,” and think of the the Christians who have used symbols and abbreviations through the ages
  - X is a way to negate or eliminate things, but. . .
    - X is also a multiplier
  - X is a cross
    - The Christmas story leads to the cross
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### And Can It Be?

Charles Wesley

And can it be that I should gain  
An int’rest in the Saviour’s blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain—  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father’s throne above—  
So free, so infinite His grace—  
**Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam’s helpless race:**  
’Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick’ning ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th’ eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

### Doxology

Thomas Ken

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost