

# Joy to the World

Issac Watts, George Frederick Handel and Lowell Mason, 1822

Sing along with The Portland Ensign Choir & Orchestra @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVVZoNVfg2s>



*D* *Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *D*  
Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

*G* *A* *D5/A* *Dsus4/A*

Let earth receive her King;

*D*

Let every heart, prepare him room,

*D*

And heaven and nature sing,

*A7*

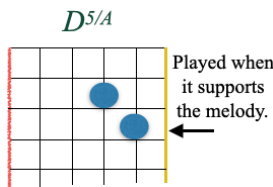
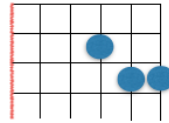
And heaven and nature sing,

*D*

And heaven,

*Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *G* *D* *D5/A*

And heaven and nature sing.



*D* *Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *D*  
No more let sins and sorrows grow,

*G* *A* *D5/A*

Nor thorns infest the ground;

*D*

He comes to make His blessings flow;

*D*

Far as the curse is found,

*A7*

Far as the curse is found,

*D*

Far as,

*Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *G* *D* *D5/A*

Far as, the curse is found.

*D* *Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *D*  
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;

*G* *A* *D5/A*

Let all their songs employ;

*D*

While fields and flocks, rocks, hills and plains;

*D*

Repeat the sounding joy,

*A7*

Repeat the sounding joy,

*D*

Repeat,

*Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *G* *D* *D5/A*

Re - - -peat the sounding joy,

*D* *Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *D*  
He rules the world with truth and grace,

*G* *A* *D5/A*

And makes the nations prove.

*D*

The glories of His righteousness.

*D*

And wonders of His love,

*A7*

And wonders of His love,

*D*

And wonders,

*Dsus4/A* *D* *D5/A* *G* *D* *D5/A*

And won - - ders of His love.

*Christmas as you go*

# Scripture and History

**Psalm 98: 1-4** Sing a new song to the LORD, for he has done marvelous deeds. His right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

The LORD has made his victory known; has revealed his triumph in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth; break into song; sing praise.

”**Joy to the World!**” lyrics are by English hymn writer Isaac Watts. The song was first published in 1719 in Watts' collection; *The Psalms of David: Imitated in the language of the New Testament, and applied to the Christian state and worship*.

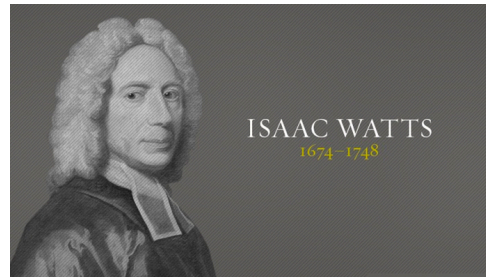
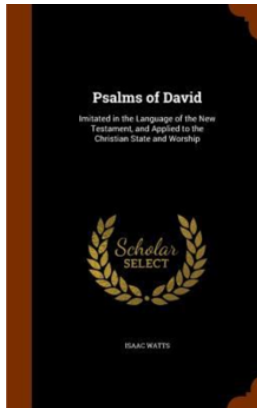


Image from Christianity Today

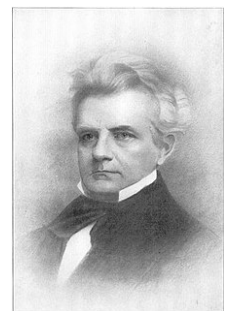
"Joy to the World" was composed as a two-part hymn inspired by Psalm 98 glorifying Christ's triumphant return at the end of the age, rather than a Christmas song celebrating his first coming as a babe born in a stable. The first part has long since been forgotten. The second part has become one of the most popular hymns of all time: "Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"



George Frederick Handel

Image from Wikipedia

The music was adapted and arranged to Watts' lyrics by Lowell Mason in 1839 from an older melody, which was then believed to have originated from Handel. The theme of the refrain (And heaven and nature sing...) appears in the orchestral opening and accompaniment of the recitative "Comfort ye" from Handel's Messiah, and the first four notes match the beginning of the choruses "Lift up your heads" and "Glory to God" from the same oratorio. However, Handel did not compose the entire tune. The name "Antioch" is generally used for the tune.



Lowell Mason  
Image from  
Wikipedia

As of the late 20th century, "Joy to the World" was the most-published Christmas hymn in North America.

Wikipedia

*Christmas as you go*