

The Best Christmas Ever
Christ Our Joy
John 16:16-23

Songwriters get their inspiration from their context, their life experiences, and their main concerns. They often sing about that which is most important to them. It makes sense that our faith is a singing faith, that we would sing about the God of the universe and His love for us. That is why we worship the way we worship. God has gifted us with song because he wired us to be connected to Him that way. When we lift our voices in song, we join with the angels in heaven who were created for that very purpose.

1. Christ turns sorrow and lament into joy.
2. Christ seals and guarantees our joy.
3. Christ completes and fulfills our joy.

John's announcement about Jesus from the womb inspired joy in Elizabeth. She had lived a life filled with discouragement. Even in her pregnancy, I am sure that there was worry and skepticism. She may not have allowed herself to enjoy the joy of carrying a child, but in this moment, Christ allowed her to enjoy her joy. I know it is easier said than done, but if you are discouraged, know that Advent is designed to invade your discouragement and replace it with joy. Christ comes at Christmas to turn our sorrow into a joy that knows no boundaries.

For further consideration

Hebrews 12:2 says this, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." What Jesus came to do, He did with joy. It was with joy that he emptied Himself, that He stepped out of the glories of heaven. It was with joy that the Second Person of the Triune God clothed Himself in humanity and came in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. It was with joy that he endured the affliction of the cross. It was with joy that he cried out from the cross, "It is finished!" It was with joy that He allowed himself to be buried in a borrowed tomb. And it was with joy that the Spirit of God that is now in us raised Him from the dead. It is with joy that he offers us the keys to the kingdom. It is with joy that he offers you eternal life. Enter into the joy of the Lord by believing that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God.