

## Prayer Gathering - August 29

Jesus, You are the source of our hope, love peace and joy. In this world we will have troubles but You have overcome the world. And You have given us the power to overcome the world also by faith and trust in You. We realize this power as we experience joy not by ignoring the problems but amidst the problems of this world. Please help us to realize the power we have in You. Amen.

Music - "Sing for Joy"

**Blessed** are you when *men* shall revile you and persecute *you*, and shall say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward in Heaven *is* great. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12)

**John 15:11** "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature.

**Romans 14:17** God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy.

**2Corinthians 6:10** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, *yet* possessing all things.

The season of Advent (the celebration of Jesus first coming and the anticipation of His second coming) has four themes - peace, hope, joy, love. Can we have one without the others or is this a package?

What makes you happy?

What joyful?

Do you pray for joy?

The Lord's Prayer

Praise and Prayer requests

Prayer List

Closing Prayer - Father, there are so many things coming at us and from so many directions. We each have our personal problems but now society has introduced so many more - gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability continue to cause division. Even our Methodist Church is dividing. But You, Lord, are a rock. You never change. And we have Your Holy Spirit to encourage and empower us to be like You, Firm, unchanging, uncompromising with Your Holy Word as our foundation. Help us to help one another in our personal difficulties, in our church divisions, in our country divisions and in our world divisions. You are a God of unity - three in one. We pray as Jesus did just before His crucifixion -- "I am not asking you to take them out of the world. But I am asking that you keep them safe from the Evil One. They don't belong to the world, just as I don't belong to the world. Make them ready for your service through your truth. Your teaching is truth. I have sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. I am making myself completely ready to serve you. I do this for them, so that they also might be fully qualified for your service. "I pray not only for these followers but also for those who will believe in me because of their teaching. Father, I pray that all who believe in me can be one. You are in me and I am in you. I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me. Amen. (John 17:15-21)

## Sing for Joy

If we call to Him, He will answer us  
If we run to Him, He will run to us  
If we lift our hands, He will lift us up  
Come now praise his name, all you saints of God.

Sing for joy to God our strength

Sing for joy to God our strength, our strength

Draw near to Him, he is here with us  
Give Him your love, He's in love with us  
He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands  
If we rend our hearts He will heal our land.

Sing for joy to God our strength

Sing for joy to God our strength, our strength

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