

**“Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee”** by Henry Van Dyke [music is “ode to joy” by Beethoven]

This hymn was written in 1907 ... it calls on us to understand the source of joy in our lives.

ILLY: 5 hour energy drink, works for a while. Joy is the spiritual solution!

**A) Joy comes as God moves in our life.**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

John 8:12, Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

**B) Joy comes from seeing God's creation.**

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Psalm 19:1, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

### **C. Joy comes from deeper relationships.**

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Philippians 2:1-2, If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

### **D. Joy comes from moving forward in our faith.**

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Love Divine is reigning o'er us  
Leading us with mercy's hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music lifts us Sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

Psalm 96:1, Sing to the LORD a *new* song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we ask for Your joy to be evermore present in our lives. Inspire us, lead us, and help us move forward in our faith. In Jesus' name, amen."