

Advent Reflection  
December 15, 2020  
*JOY*  
**Psalm 92: 1-4 NRSV**

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,  
to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.  
For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

*Reflection by Joy P.*

My favorite Christmas carol has always been "Joy to the World". I suppose it's easy to guess why. There's a story of how I was named Joy. I am the youngest of four, and my big sister chose my name. (It had to start with J; my older siblings are Jan, Jim & Jeff). Jan is the oldest and was 14, a freshman in high school, when I came along. She gave me the name Joy because people would have to think happy thoughts whenever they met me or said my name.

As we read today's scripture, we are reminded that we can share joy. It is good to praise the Lord in joyful music. We have been blessed with the greatest gift in the Christ Child... How can we keep from singing His praises? 2020 has been a really hard year. It would be so easy to forget the joy. But when we read this verse, and we sing the carol, we can be filled with God's joy. "I sing for joy at what your hands have done." What better way to celebrate Advent in 2020? Sing it out loud with me: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!