



December 19, 2022

## JOY! JOY! JOY!

Last Sunday, the third in Advent, the pink JOY candle was lit - Gaudete - "Rejoice ye".

Each day as we 'wait' through Advent we experience JOY as some one or more of our preparation 'tasks'/traditions gets ticked off of the list.

When we listen to glorious, familiar and unfamiliar Christmas music, whether classical or carols, we cannot but be filled with the JOY of the season.

Maybe JOY comes as we look out and see a brilliant red Cardinal sitting in a shiny holly tree, or watch energetic pets race down the yard just for the JOY of doing it.

As we read Advent Devotions, listen to sermons, participate in gatherings we are reminded of The Gift and are filled with Love for and at His Birth.

Beethoven's 9th Symphony's "Ode to Joy", heard this year in the Great Performances' event, brings to mind the words written so long ago:

*... "Let us sing more cheerful songs, more full of JOY! " ...*

*"JOY, bright spark of divinity," ...*

*... "Whoever has created an abiding friendship,*

*or has won a true and loving wife,*

*All who can call at least one soul theirs,*

*Join in our song of praise;" ...*

*... "All creatures drink of joy at nature's breast.*

*Just and unjust alike taste of her gift;" ...*

*... "Gladly, like the heavenly bodies which  
He set on their courses through the splendor of  
the firmament;" ...*

...“Do you fall in worship, you millions?  
World, do you know your creator? “...  
...“Seek him in the heavens; Above the stars must He dwell.”...

If one looks up hymn tunes, ‘Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee’ is set to “Hymn to Joy”. “All Thy works with JOY surround Thee”. Then leaping ahead to Eastertide we find ‘Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!’ And it too is set to “Hymn to Joy”. “Jesus is our strong companion. JOY and peace shall never end”!

**Amen! and AMEN!**

~Written by Pat Sheafor



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